

Eighth republic votes to go it alone

Former allies inflict new blow on Gorbachev

By BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Gorbachev suffered a further blow to his dented authority yesterday when two more leading republics refused to join his ruling council.

The snub came as the republics pressed on with their efforts to form a new union without involving the Kremlin, and Azerbaijan became the eighth republic to declare its independence.

In Alma Ata, Russia and Kazakhstan signed an accord echoing the terms of that agreed between Russia and the Ukraine on Thursday, setting up temporary structures to deal with the economy. They vowed to work together to prevent the "uncontrolled disintegration" of the nation and called for a new association of sovereign states to be established out of the ashes of the old union.

Azerbaijan also pledged to broaden and strengthen its ties with the other republics even though it voted to join the growing band of republics declaring independence. The Baku parliament also voted to

SOVIET UNION IN TRANSITION

WORLD STAGE

John Major flies to Moscow tomorrow after his successful working holiday with President Bush in Maine — and then goes on to Peking Page 7

UKRAINE DRAMA

The Communist party is expected to be outlawed by the Ukraine's nationalist politicians Page 8

Kazakhstan called for the creation of a new union structure based on equal rights and for "members of the former USSR" to join talks about mutually-beneficial forms of co-operation. At the same time, economic officials from all 15 republics met, again independently of the Kremlin, in Moscow.

The deal struck in Alma Ata eased tensions that had been raised by Russia's warning on Monday that it might want to revise its boundaries with republics that chose to leave the union. The growing Russian influence, particularly in central authorities, since the coup has rekindled fears of Russian chauvinism. Mr Yeltsin yesterday toured the Baltic states to reassure the governments, while his prime minister, Ivan Silayev, defended the actions that had been taken. Writing in *Russkaya Gazeta*, he said: "Many republics forget today who saved them from dictatorship." Russia would not give in to "anti-Russian agitation".

Further signs of the republics' growing strength came with a deal between Lithuania and the KGB allowing joint patrols of the border with Poland, which means people will be able to enter the republic without Soviet visas. The Soviet Olympic committee also agreed that the three Baltic states should be regarded as independent Olympic nations.

In Moscow, the decline of the Kremlin's old guard continued with the arrest of Anatoli Lukyanov, the former speaker of parliament who had been a close friend of Mr Gorbachev for forty years. He is expected to be charged with treason for his alleged involvement in the coup attempt.

The Communist party, already suspended throughout the Soviet Union, faced an outright ban in the Ukraine last night, while in Moscow, reporters invited to the party's central committee headquarters to witness the transfer of files to the care of the Russian government were shown boxes labelled "Minutes of politburo meetings" and "True minutes of politburo meetings".

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ICT's venture, page 25

KGB defector to be reunited with family

By LIN JENKINS

THE wife and two daughters of Oleg Gordievsky, the Soviet spy who defected to Britain six years ago, are to join him after the new head of the KGB overruled objections from unnamed people.

Vadim Bakatin, appointed to reform the KGB, said yesterday he had made a "positive decision" to a request from Sir Rodric Braithwaite, the British ambassador to Moscow, that the family be reunited. John Major was to raise the issue during his visit to Moscow tomorrow.

Mr Gordievsky and his wife, Leila, remain cautious. He telephoned her to say he would not be satisfied until they were together. Their daughters Maria, aged 11, and Anna, aged 10, would not be told of the reunion until they began their journey to London.

Speaking on ITN, Mr Gordievsky, aged 53, said: "We have seen in these six years so much deception and hurt that we take everything from the Soviet authorities with great caution."



On top of the world: Britain's Liz McColgan celebrates after her win in Tokyo yesterday.



Gold blend: Liz McColgan embraces her husband, Peter, after her triumph in the 10,000 metres.

McColgan wins gold for Britain

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN TOKYO

ONLY nine months after giving birth to her first child, Liz McColgan yesterday ended Britain's week-long wait for a gold medal at the world championships.

McColgan, 5ft 6ins tall and weighing just over 7st, powered around the track 25 times, leaving the greatest field of women 10,000-metre runners ever assembled struggling in her wake.

Twelve days after her daughter was born, McColgan, aged 27, was out training for these championships in a blizzard. It was the same strength of purpose which took the Scottish runner to the winner's rostrum in front of Tokyo's packed national stadium.

McColgan was so tired after the race that she was unable to complete her lap of honour without stopping to rest.

"I have worked all my life to become a world champion," she said. Even before the victory, McColgan, from Arbroath, had a cabinet full of medals: Olympic silver, Commonwealth gold, world cross-country silver and bronze. But this was her greatest success.

Some medical experts believe McColgan's pregnancy might have helped

the runner to win the race more than she would care to admit. "Pregnancy is an anabolic event," said Craig Sharp, the director of physiological services at the British Olympic Medical Centre.

"The hormones in pregnancy cause a degree of muscle building. Pregnancy is similarly associated with an increase in blood volume which would help the endurance competitors. Also, the pain and effort of having a baby helps women to handle the discomfort of sport."

Last March, as McColgan prepared to run in the world cross-country championship within four months of childbirth, Dr Sharp said of her future as an athlete: "I would not be surprised if she runs better than she ever has before."

McColgan's husband, Peter, who runs steeplechases, did not advance beyond the first round of his event.

"He had been her coach for the last year and I think he has sacrificed his own athletics career to concentrate on helping his wife," Martin Lynch, Liz's father, said.

McColgan's day, page 38

Soviet sports empire crumbles

The end of the Soviet Union means a new beginning for Soviet sportsmen, reports John Goodbody

THE greatest empire sport has known began to splinter yesterday with the Soviet Olympic committee endorsing a request from the three Baltic republics to restore their independent status in the Olympic Games.

Soviet success in many international sports — they are second to the United States in the medals table at this week's world athletics championships — could be further eroded as state funding of competitors is cut or withdrawn.

With five other republics, including the Ukraine and Belorussia, having announced their political independence, the sporting map of the Soviet Union looks as if it is going to be redrawn drastically by the time the Olympic Games open in Barcelona next July.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), said in Tokyo this week there was a strong possibility that the republics would compete as individual nations in Barcelona. A decision will be made in Berlin later this month.

The liberalisation of Soviet society has already led to a loosening of ties between sportsmen and women and the Soviet Union. Already nearly 100 footballers are playing professionally abroad, most of them in Western Europe, including Andrei Kanchelskis, of Manchester United, and Oleg Kuznetsov and Alexei Mikhailichenko, for Glasgow Rangers.

Sergey Bubka, who was born in Belorussia and this week won his third successive world pole vault title, is now threatening to live in France so that he can more easily benefit financially from the money available in top-class athletics. Lithuania, Latvia

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Crane goes out, page 33
End of an era, page 38

TODAY IN THE TIMES

QUIET AMERICAN?



Harrison Ford started as a star's carpenter. He still prefers chopping wood to networking Hollywood. *Saturday Review*

MOTHER AS DEMON



Antonia White's diary has been edited by Susan Chitty (left), the daughter who thoroughly hated her. *Why? Saturday Review*

CATCH 22



Cornish fishing is caught between the ministry and the deep blue sea. The fall of a once prosperous industry. *Saturday Review*

WHO'S NEXT?



Lech Walesa's Poland was in turmoil last night after the resignation of its second government since his revolution of 1989. *Page 9*

DINOSAUR'S HEAD



Sir David Attenborough inherited a "dinosaur with blunted teeth" when he took over as president of the British Association. *Page 5*

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Eureka! You too can train to be a genius

By NIGEL HAWKES

SCIENCE EDITOR

GENIUS can be taught, a psychologist told the British Association yesterday. Far from being an indefinable and innate characteristic of a few exceptional people, genius is often the product of intensive teaching and well-judged guidance. To match the achievement of Mozart may remain a dream, but you, too, can be a chicken-sexer.

Michael Howe, from Exeter university, said that research into genius had often been held back by the belief that the dazzling feats achieved by people such as the young Mozart were genuinely inexplicable. "We might call this the 'genius reaction'," he said. In fact, research had shown that far from writing masterpieces at the age of five, Mozart had produced his first great works after at least 12 years of musical training.

"Studies of 76 major composers show that in virtually all of them it was not until they had at least ten years of intense musical training that they began to produce major works," he said.

More modest perceptual skills, apparently possessed by a few exceptional people, can be taught, Dr Howe said. The rather rare skill of being able to determine the sex of chickens can be acquired with enough training and practice. So, too, can the ability to make absolute judgments of colour hues. Most adults can identify only about five of a set of 21 colours that are only slightly different. But after 80 training sessions, one individual had been able to identify 18 of them.

Similarly, most people can remember and repeat only about eight or nine random digits if they are read out at about one a second. Ten hours' training

produces only a small improvement, but practising for nearer to a thousand hours had dramatic results. Some people could then remember 80 or even 100 digits.

"So far as one can tell, it now seems possible that virtually all those feats of memory displayed by people who are said to have an innately exceptional memory can be excelled by so-called ordinary people, providing they are given the opportunity to have appropriate training," he said.

Given the importance of exceptional human abilities, Dr Howe said that the subject had been inadequately researched. The evidence that remarkable abilities could be taught should open people's eyes to the possibilities — leading, maybe, to a proliferation of Mozarts or at least of chicken-sexers.

British Association, page 5

Hurricane Bob tiptoes into UK

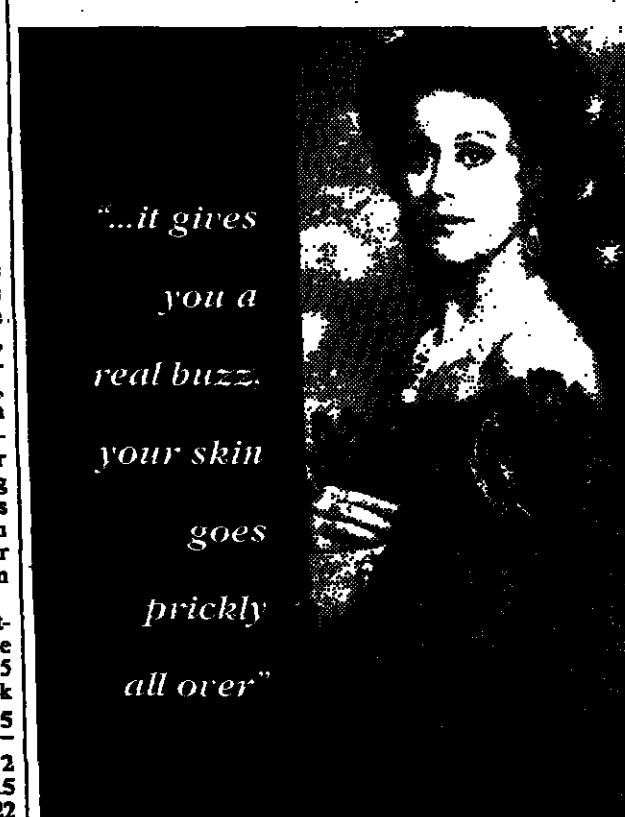
By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE dying breaths of hurricane Bob were heading towards Britain last night as the tourism industry began counting the cost of the Gulf war and the recession on its all-too-brief summer season.

Like Bob, which began as a violent tempest destroying all in its path then petered out into an irritating low pressure area, the economic hurricane that threatened to devastate the holiday industry is largely a spent force.

Families did still take holidays, at home and abroad; guest houses, hotels, amusement arcades and restaurants around the country, which had predicted ruin, survived.

Bob is expected to bring only isolated thunderstorms, showers and a drop in temperature late tonight and tomorrow. Then the sun will shine again and temperature will return to the high 70s.



Dame Kiri Te Kanawa in the September issue of

GRAMOPHONE

The Review of New Classical Recordings

Free

British Music Compact Disc

ON SALE NOW

Kinnock rebuffed as he unveils his hopes for economy



Smith: union leaders rate him the best performer

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock suffered an embarrassing personal rebuff from trade union leaders yesterday as he redoubled his efforts to convince the public that Labour could rescue Britain from the recession.

The Labour leader told a shadow cabinet mini-summit on Britain's economic ills that the re-election of a Conservative government would lead to a third damaging recession. Accusing Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, of complacency and negligence in failing to tackle the downturn, he won approval for a five-point plan designed to "kick-start" the economy.

However, Mr Kinnock's attempt to persuade sceptical voters that Labour is a clear and credible short-term alternative to the Tories was marred by a poll of trade union

leaders suggesting that they have reservations about the way he is handling his job. They rated Mr Kinnock seventh in overall performance among 22 members of the shadow cabinet. John Smith, the shadow chancellor, topped the poll, followed by Gordon Brown, the trade spokesman, Tony Blair, employment, Robin Cook, health, John Prescott, transport, and Frank Dobson, the energy spokesman.

The poll, carried out by the *New Statesman*, contained more gloom for the Labour leadership. Roy Hattersley, the deputy leader, was ranked 15th, behind Margaret Beckett, Treasury, Jack Straw, education, Joan Lester, children, Bryan Gould, environment, and John Cunningham, campaigns. Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, was penultimate in a parallel survey asking the union chiefs to rate the performance of their colleagues.

The survey was published on the eve of TUC leaders and delegates gathering in Glasgow today for a conference intended to demonstrate their unity behind Mr Kinnock's leadership. The Conservatives immediately seized on the poll to press home their claims that Mr Kinnock was not fit to govern.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, said that trade union bosses were paying to get Mr Kinnock into No 10 even though they knew he was not up to the job. "There can be few people who are in any doubt about Neil Kinnock's fitness to govern, but this poll should put paid to any lingering doubts."

With the Labour leader trailing John Major in the opinion polls, he is vulnerable to any renewed bout of speculation about his position. Mr Kinnock will be able to argue that the poll is not fully representative of

trade union opinion. Only 37 anonymous replies were received from 100 trade union leaders sent confidential survey forms asking them to rate the shadow cabinet on a scale of one to ten. Frank Griffin, general secretary of the United Road Transport Union, was the only one to sign his questionnaire.

At the shadow cabinet meeting in Edinburgh, Mr Kinnock brushed aside suggestions that a report from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development corroborated Mr Lamont's claim that a recovery would start in the second half of the year. He said that the report also pointed to rising unemployment, falling investment and high levels of bankruptcies and bad debts.

"The prospects, in other words, are for a process that will be shallow, short-lived and scarcely worthy of the name 'recovery'. That is bad

news for all parts of Britain — and in many ways the worst news is that the Government will seek no practical steps for making sure that any upturn is strong, sustained and widespread."

The emergency recovery package agreed by the shadow cabinet consists of a 1 per cent cut in interest rates, tax incentives to boost investment in plant, machinery, innovation and design, a new "skills fund" including a 0.5 per cent levy on the payrolls of firms who do not spend money on training, temporary work programmes linking training and work experience and a government-backed export drive.

Mr Kinnock said Mr Lamont was "culpably negligent" to say that an upturn in consumer spending would lead Britain out of the recession. "A fourth term [of the Conservatives] would bring a third slump," he told his colleagues.



Kinnock: seventh rating suggests reservations

Doorstep checks will counter attempts at council tax fraud

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

LOCAL councils will be empowered to conduct doorstep checks on the number of people living in homes to prevent fraudulent claims for rebates under the new council tax, according to a leaked government paper.

The confidential document, prepared by the environment department, says councils will be allowed to use "such steps as they think necessary" to check the number of adults in each house for the new tax.

The paper says that councils can supplement information from poll tax and electoral registers and social security benefit records with door-to-door canvassing. House-

holders will not be legally compelled to answer questions but failure to do so could result in their rebate claims being disallowed. The document has been discussed by a working group on the implementation of the new tax, made up of civil servants and local authority representatives.

The disclosure comes the day after it emerged that councils would have to keep detailed records of the occupants of most houses in order to administer the complex system of rebates and discounts under the new tax.

After initially insisting that there would be no need for registers of residents the

environment department conceded yesterday that councils would need to keep records of occupants of properties where benefits were claimed.

According to the department's own estimates, a third of households live alone and would be entitled to rebates while up to a further 50 per cent would qualify for rebates on other grounds.

The department also disclosed details of how bills would be sent out. A spokeswoman said that they would not be addressed to individuals but to "the occupier or the council tax payer".

She added: "When it comes to those who will be getting rebates then councils will need to know the names of people living at an address." Under the council tax the eligibility of householders for rebates will, for the first time, depend on the income and status of all other adults living at the same address.

David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, said yesterday that in reality councils would need registers of all residents to check the validity of claims. He accused Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, of going back on a promise that detailed registers of local tax payers would be abolished at the same time as the poll tax in April 1993.

Mr Blunkett said: "The government has promised major savings from the new council tax. It is now clear that this will not be possible. The costs of administering this needlessly complex tax will inevitably lead to higher bills for everyone. The department's confusion illustrates the depth of the difficulties that the government has got itself into with the council tax."

Leading article, page 11



Duty watch: the keen-eyed home in on their quarry at the Bird-watching Fair at Rutland Water yesterday

12,000 expected at bird-watching fair

By CRAIG SETON

THE annual British Bird-watching Fair that opened yesterday is testimony to "birding" being one of the fastest-growing hobbies in the country.

In only its second year as a nationally recognised event, it is believed to be the biggest such fair in the world. The three-day show is expected to attract 12,000 people, ranging from keen amateurs, the most common form of birdwatcher, to the rarer "twitchers", super-keen enthusiasts who will travel the length of the country to see a rare bird.

The fair is organised by

the Leicestershire and Rutland Trust for Nature Conservation (LRTNC) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). It is being held alongside the internationally recognised nature reserve at Rutland Water, Leicestershire, managed by the LRTNC.

The growth in bird-watching has spawned a commercial industry to cater for the needs of its followers, and more than 100 traders are at the show, offering binoculars, cameras, sonic aspirators (for listening to bird song), and specialist clothing, holidays and books.

David Wragg, director of the LRTNC, said it was no bad thing that interest in nature had become big business: it raised awareness of the environment and attracted money to protect it through the development of reserves.

He admitted twitchers were viewed unfavourably by some because they were assumed to lose interest in a rare bird once they had spotted it. True birdwatchers would apparently think it derogatory to be regarded as a twitcher, who can turn up with hundreds of others at a remote spot to see a rare species. Most twitchers use

Birdline, a 24-hour telephone service that provides information about sightings. On its stand yesterday was Lee Evans, aged 30, from Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire. He is in the Guinness Book of Records for his sighting of 359 species of birds in the UK in one year.

Mr Evans travels 90,000 miles a year pursuing his hobby. He estimates that there are about 2,850 hardened twitchers in Britain, and insists they have cleaned up their act since the years when they were condemned for their frenetic activities.

Think-tank head beats off critics

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE head of a prominent free market think-tank at the centre of an internal dispute about alleged political bias has survived an attempt by his critics to unseat him.

The case against Graham Mather, general director of the Institute of Economic Affairs, was put by Lord Harris of High Cross, at a meeting of the institute's trustees.

Lord Harris, a founder president of the IEA, argued that many of the institute's academic advisers had lost confidence in Mr Mather's ability to keep its distance from party politics. He recommended that Mr Mather seek other employment more suited to his talents.

However, the trustees decided to back Mr Mather and make management changes intended to prevent a repetition of claims that the IEA was allying itself with John

Major's pragmatic brand of Conservatism. Mr Mather yesterday urged critics to abandon their renewed efforts to topple him. He said: "I have always endeavoured to conduct the institute's work strictly in accordance with its constitution and traditions and I will continue to do so. I hope that those concerned will now discontinue their futile and damaging campaign."

The changes agreed by the trustees included appointing Alan Peacock of Heriot-Watt university to the newly created post of chairman of the advisory council. Lord Harris was told he would have to vacate his room at the IEA's headquarters near the Commons. The trustees also refused Lord Harris's call for a formal rebuke to Mr Mather for compromising the institute's independence.

Lord Harris said: "As president, I thought it my duty to draw the attention of the trustees to my anxiety that some of the younger members of the advisory council were contemplating a public protest."

"I laid the anxieties expressed by the academics before the trustees in the presence of Graham Mather. There were divisions among the trustees. But the outcome was that the trustees decided to close ranks behind Mr Mather and instigate private checks and balances without any public reference to the anxieties that have been expressed."

Professor Peacock said: "I think that the two things they allege — politicisation of the IEA and the decline in standards — do not stick and it's for that reason I have decided to stay with the IEA at the cost of some personal misunderstandings with close friends."

"If I thought the IEA was becoming political in the way it has been suggested, I would not be there because I have never been a member of any political party."

Catholic church 'in decline'

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

A PICTURE of a Roman Catholic church in decline in large parts of Europe emerged at a conference of theologians, economists and politicians in Leeds yesterday.

In Italy, where 88 per cent of people profess Catholicism, religious participation in the church's life is as low as 12 per cent, according to Fr Rino Fisichella of the Gregorian university, Rome.

He told the conference organised by the Catholic Theological Association of Great Britain that there was an almost total ignorance of the most basic principles of faith and morals. "If you ask young people what Genesis is they are more likely to reply a rock group than the first book of the Bible," Fr Fisichella said.

Elizabeth Maxwell, international vice-president of the Council of Christians and Jews, referred to France where 13 per cent of those professing to be Catholics attend mass regularly and 7 per cent attend church more than once a month. She said the number of new priests each year has fallen from more than 1,000 in the Fifties to 100.

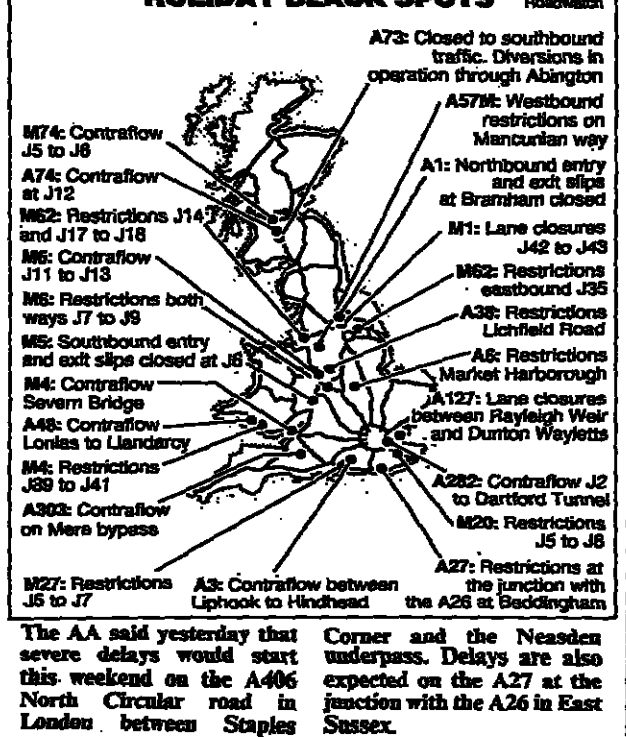
Christianity was being reduced to the status of nostalgia and folk heritage, Dr Maxwell said, and the church had lost touch with the urban working classes. "The problem for the hierarchy and the Vatican is that its views are no longer in tune with the views of the people," she said.

Elizabeth Maxwell, international vice-president of the Council of Christians and Jews, referred to France where 13 per cent of those professing to be Catholics attend mass regularly and 7 per cent attend church more than once a month. She said the number of new priests each year has fallen from more than 1,000 in the Fifties to 100.

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Clody Buggins, the firm's managing director, admitted she raised Mrs Preisler's pay

HOLIDAY BLACK SPOTS



Hoax bomb linked to murderer

By RONALD FAUX

THE killer of Julie Dart, aged 18, of Leeds, and a hoax bomb found two weeks ago on the M1 near Barnsley are connected, West Yorkshire police said yesterday.

Police said the device seemed similar in construction to one mentioned by Miss Dart's killer in one of six letters sent to the police.

Miss Dart was found unaided and battered to death on July 19 in a field near the A1 at Grantham, Lincolnshire. The hoax bomb was found on August 14 behind a crash barrier near junction 37 on the southbound carriageway. Near by was a note on paper of the same type as letters from the killer although the writing was different.

Fashion firm defies outcry over advert

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE fashion company Benetton intends to defy hundreds of protests tomorrow and launch nationwide an advertising poster that shows a newborn baby still attached to its umbilical cord.

The Advertising Standards Authority said it has received more than 400 complaints so far about the graphic picture of the blood-spattered baby. The company could be ordered to withdraw the hoarding picture within days as the watchdog consults members in a special postal ballot procedure for a speedy decision. The authority had already warned Benetton that the poster would outrage the public, and it is particularly upset the advice was ignored.

Caroline Crawford, of the authority, said yesterday: "It is really sad Benetton are showing such a disregard for the sensitivity of the feelings of the public."

The poster, part of a series which includes a priest and nun kissing, carries the slogan "United Colours of Benetton" and Ms Crawford said people were failing to make the connection between the advertisement and the fashion company. "Some people have thought it is an advertisement for paint and, more sadly, one woman thought it was for an abortion clinic."

Caroline Titcomb, of Benetton, said: "There are no plans to withdraw the campaign. The image is scheduled to run for two weeks and it will go nationwide from September 1." The company had received a mixed reaction.

Broker with baby was offered salary increase to stay

A HIGH-FLYING broker who lost her £150,000-a-year job when she had a baby was "very good" at her job, the woman boss accused of forcing her out admitted yesterday.

Lillian Preisler's salary jumped from £14,000 to £70,000 in two years because of her performance at Euro Brokers Capital Markets. But at one meeting held to discuss her pay, Mrs Preisler, aged 31, stormed out after her demand was refused, the tribunal heard.

Clody Buggins, the firm's managing director, admitted she raised Mrs Preisler's pay

to keep her away from rival firms. Mrs Buggins told the hearing in Chelsea, west London, that she had discussions with Mrs Preisler over pay and conditions. In June 1989, Mrs Buggins offered her a two-year contract on a salary of £50,000 a year.

"She said she felt she was not particularly happy about that, but she would come and talk about it later," Mrs Buggins said.

The tribunal was told that Mrs Preisler later returned with Paul Langry, a colleague, and they demanded a £70,000 salary each with company cars and bonuses. "They both felt

they were worth more than the sum I had given them and to a certain extent my head was on the line because I had two key people who said they were negotiating together," said Mrs Buggins.

"They were important to me and I agreed the terms of £70,000, a company car and bonus," Mrs Buggins, from Wimbledon, southwest London, said she believed the pair pushed for changes to their contracts because they felt "they were signing their lives away for two years."

She said that Mrs Preisler told her she was pregnant in October 1989, about the same

time another colleague announced she was pregnant. Mrs Buggins said: "We had two people going off pregnant. I was keen for them both to come back." Mrs Preisler left the company on maternity leave in March 1990.

In September, Mrs Preisler phoned the firm and said she was surprised not to have received the bonus she felt was due, the tribunal was told.

Mrs Buggins said: "I said to her, 'come in and we will sit down and discuss the bonus'." At the meeting, Mrs Preisler asked for a total salary package of £160,000. "I was flabbergasted," Mrs Buggins

said. She added: "I still wanted her back. She said 'we can do a deal together that no one else will know about'."

"I refused and she stormed out." Mrs Preisler agreed to return after further negotiations on £70,000 salary. But Mrs Buggins said no firm arrangements were made about the payment of the bonus or maternity package.

The managing director admitted she had not wanted the Mrs Preisler to go to a rival company. She said: "We did anything to keep the staff." The tribunal was adjourned until September 17 when the hearing will continue.



Preisler: praised by her director at tribunal

Death of MP gives Tories a new test

By NICHOLAS WOOD

THE Conservatives were last night facing a testing autumn by-election in a vulnerable Scottish seat after the death from cancer of Alick Buchanan-Smith.

Mr Buchanan-Smith, aged 59, a former minister, had a majority of 2,063 in Kincardine and Deeside at the last election over the Liberal Democrat, Nicol Stephen.

Kincardine and Deeside, which stretches from the Cairngorms in the west to the North Sea and takes in part of south Aberdeen, is the most vulnerable of the ten Scottish Tory seats to a Liberal Democrat advance. Mr Stephen, a member of Grampian council, will again be the challenger.

A System 3 poll for the *Glasgow Herald* indicated yesterday, however, that the centre party has ground to make up. It enjoys the support of only 8 per cent of Scots and trails badly behind the SNP on 19 per cent, with the Conservatives on 25 per cent and Labour on 45 per cent.

Mr Buchanan-Smith was on the left of his party and resigned his post as shadow Scottish secretary in 1976 after disagreeing publicly with Margaret Thatcher over devolution. He was later recalled as a junior agriculture minister and then an energy minister.

John Major said yesterday that Mr Buchanan-Smith was a man of great integrity and courage, coupled with enormous charm.

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SNP inspired by Baltics

Scottish Nationalists are hoping that the resurgence of nationalist fervour in the Soviet republics will add momentum to their quest for political independence.

John Swinney, SNP national secretary, said at the launch yesterday of its agenda for next month's conference that many nations, led by the Baltics, were reaffirming their nationhood after decades trapped in artificial empires. "This conference will play a key part in demonstrating the transformation of the SNP from a party of protest into a party ready for power."

Sacking upheld

A water treatment plant manager who allowed unchlorinated drinking water to flow into thousands of homes was rightly dismissed, a tribunal decided yesterday. Len Carberry, aged 48, ignored warning buzzers while the untreated water pumped out for four hours from the plant in Egham, Surrey, the tribunal was told. The panel said North Surrey Water had no choice but to dismiss him.

Final stand

Hard-left Labour activists are planning a last-ditch stand to try to save the careers of two Labour MPs facing expulsion from the party for alleged involvement in Militant. Seven local parties have put down resolutions and amendments opposing the expulsions for debate at the party's annual conference in Brighton. They call for an end to the "witchhunt" against Terry Fields and Dave Nellist.

Masonic sale

A master's chair attributed to George Hepplewhite, the Georgian cabinet maker, made £3,190 in a sale of masonic memorabilia at Bodham's in London yesterday. Two other Georgian chairs each made £2,000. The 237-lot auction made a total of £47,000 with 14 per cent unsold. The sale attracted interest from masonic lodges in Britain and on the Continent.

Nuclear subs face 100-year wait to be declared safe

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S old nuclear submarines may have to be "beached" for up to a century after withdrawal from service before it is safe to dismantle them fully, John Knill, chairman of the government's radioactive waste management advisory committee, said yesterday. The defence ministry still has no clear policy for their disposal and the matter must be urgently addressed, he said.

Eight nuclear submarines are expected to be decommissioned before the turn of the century. The boats might have to be hauled up on land and stored whole for 50

Reactor waste plant cleared for operation

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE world's most sophisticated cement mixer, a £249 million radioactive waste encapsulation plant called The Cell, has been given its operating licence and will be formally unveiled at Sellafield, Cumbria, in October.

The plant, owned by British Nuclear Fuels, has been built to deal with the growing pile of radioactive metal wastes generated from the reprocessing of fuel rods from Britain's Magnox nuclear power stations. It is expected to play an important role in plans, announced in July, to site Britain's first underground depos-

itory for intermediate and low level radioactive wastes under the Lake District.

Most of the metal wastes are stored under water in purpose-built silos at Sellafield. The new plant, which uses industrial robots and remote-control systems, replaces water storage. The waste will be packed in cement and encapsulated in steel drums for storage.

The plant is processing about six drums a day, which will rise to eight next year. Each drum contains almost one tonne of radioactive metal.

to 100 years until their radioactive steel reactor compartments have become safe enough to be dealt with, Professor Knill said at the launch of his committee's 12th annual report. An alternative might be to cut away boat sections and store only the reactor compartments.

The government should consider making the deep underground repository for low and intermediate level waste planned for Sellafield, in Cumbria, by UK Nirex, the waste management company, suitable for the submarine reactor compartments and its shafts should be designed large

enough to take them, Professor Knill said.

The ministry has been considering the disposal of nuclear submarines since HMS Dreadnought came out of service in 1982. Dreadnought has been moored at Rosyth naval base on the Firth of Forth ever since, with its fuel and reactor removed but the radioactive reactor compartment still in place.

Last year it was joined by Churchill, Warspite and Conqueror, the boat that sank the Belgrano in the Falklands conflict, were withdrawn and are moored at Devonport. Professor Knill said he believed the boats were safe. "But it would be preferable to store them on land."

Nineteen nuclear-powered submarines are in service with the navy: four Polaris missile boats, and 15 hunter-killers. Four Trident missile submarines are planned and an unknown number of updated Trafalgar class hunter-killers.

The navy said yesterday that ministers were still looking at the options for disposal and storage of decommissioned nuclear submarines. The boats stored afloat were safe, a spokesman said, with regular inspections to ensure the integrity of their hulls.

The defence ministry's original preferred method of disposal was to sink the decommissioned boats in deep ocean, but this was ruled out by an international moratorium on maritime dumping of nuclear waste.



Rich pickings: Christine Mullis cleaning oysters she raises in Norfolk in preparation for the start of the season

Farmer predicts a good harvest ... of oysters

By JOHN SHAW

OYSTERS will be excellent this year, Christine Mullis, an oyster farmer, predicted yesterday as she dispatched supplies to the tables of discerning restaurants for the start of the new season tomorrow.

"We had a good hard winter and a lovely warm summer so they will be absolutely full and succulent

whether they are natives or Pacific," she said.

Mrs Mullis, aged 51, cultivates Pacifics in creeks and inlets along part of the north Norfolk coast. Much of the isolated shoreline is owned by conservation organisations and access is restricted.

The water of Brancaster Bay is among the cleanest in Europe and her oysters are

highly prized. Her father-in-law started the oyster beds about ten years ago when the family had a small hotel at Titchwell, near Brancaster, and when her in-laws retired she took over. Wearing chest waders, she works in water often up to 5ft deep.

"The weather at the moment is very good and so it is nice to work out of doors ... and when you see the birdlife

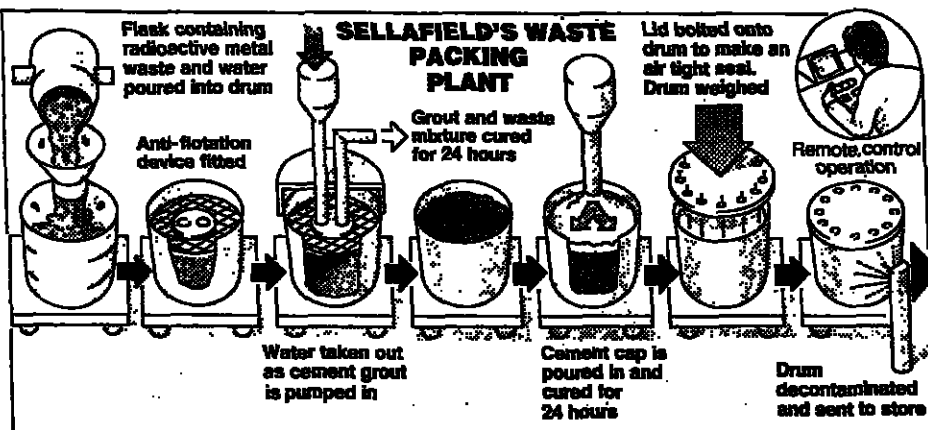
all around you it's very rewarding. During the winter it's quite different ... You just bring the oysters up rather than spend time on cleaning and maintenance."

It can also be back-breaking, carrying bags of 80 to 100 shellfish to the shore from large enclosed "rafts" moored to the banks. Of 5,000 to 6,000 oysters in a raft about 600 could be of

market size. "You've got to remember you're dealing with nature. You never get 100 per cent growth rate. You've got to allow for mortality."

"They're a luxury, but we don't get a tremendous price - anything from 15p to 30p for oysters that sell for £1 a piece in London."

Diary, page 10



Bail bandits come under scrutiny

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Home Office has launched a study into the number of offenders who commit crime while on bail. It has been prompted by police research that shows "bail bandits" account for 27 per cent of crime.

A second police study, to be published next week, is expected to disclose more dramatic findings. John Patten, the minister of state at the department, said yesterday that he shared police concern about offenders on bail.

The government had tried to minimise the risk of such crimes by establishing an information scheme to help

courts to identify defendants who could safely be released, and also by increasing the number of places at bail hostels, Mr Patten said. Police anxiety about the misuse of bail would be discussed further after the Home Office had made its report. Mr Patten said researchers had been told to complete the study by the end of October.

The project was welcomed by Albert Pacey, chief constable of Gloucestershire and chairman of the crime committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers. He said: "People who are victims of crime often see the perpetrators at large. Such experiences adversely affect the credibility of justice."

Keenan disowns film plan

By EDWARD GORMAN

BRIAN Keenan, the former Beirut hostage, yesterday disassociated himself from a planned feature film account of his experiences and those of John McCarthy in captivity.

In a statement issued through his agent in London, Mr Keenan said that the film, which plans to document the "extraordinary relationship" between the two men and how they survived their ordeal, could endanger other hostages still in Lebanon. Mr Keenan, who lives in west Ireland after being freed last August, made clear that he wanted nothing to do with the film's producers, Granada Television and HBO, an American cable channel.

The statement said: "Although the producers of the film have sought to consult him, Mr Keenan has declined to discuss or provide any information regarding his time in captivity. He has not in any way at all cooperated in the production of this film, nor does he intend to do so."

The dispute follows comments last week by Mike Beckham, the film's producer at Granada, in which he reportedly suggested Mr Keenan was working on the film and that he was hopeful that John McCarthy would assist once his recuperation was complete. Yesterday, however, Granada denied that Mr Keenan was involved.

Orkney child abuse enquiry Children 'backed up allegations'

By KERRY GILL

SOME of the nine Orkney children taken into care after allegations of sexual abuse subsequently corroborated the claims, Paul Lee, the islands' social work director, said yesterday during the judicial enquiry into the affair.

The claims had originated from three children taken into care earlier who had said that sex rituals involving children and adults had taken place in a quarry on South Ronaldsay. The allegations centred on a man known as "the master" who dressed in a cloak, mask and hood and selected people for sex acts to the accompaniment of music and dancing.

Mr Lee, on the fifth day of evidence, told Nigel Morrison, QC, counsel for two of the four families involved, that after the nine children were taken from their homes on February 27, some of their statements corroborated information given by the three children of the W family, aged seven, eight and nine, already in care.

Mr Lee said that some social workers had expressed doubts about the involvement of one of the four families, the H family, before the seizures. It was felt the authorities should wait to see if further information came from the three children making the allegations. Asked whether it was "fortunate" that such

information was obtained, Mr Lee said: "It was information that was rather more fortuitous than fortunate."

Earlier Mr Lee said that the children were taken into care because of the allegations made by the three children of the W family and because of a suspicion that those who were supporting the children's mother might be in collusion. He confirmed that corroboration from some of the nine children was obtained only after they had been taken from their homes.

Mr Morrison suggested that

Mr Lee had no concrete evidence of involvement by the four families. Mr Lee said it was uncertain what level of collusion there might have been but a question mark existed right up to the day of the seizures. "Very often we have to act on the basis of allegations and suspicion."

Mr Morrison suggested that social workers were acting first and asking questions afterwards. Mr Lee said: "We acted, we felt, in the best interests of the children at the time." Mr Lee, who admitted that he was not expert on organised child abuse, was pressed on why he had ignored guidelines when taking the W children into care. Guidelines, he said, were not mandatory and were only a framework for action.

Morrison: unhappy that parents were denied access

He was also asked why no access was given to the parents or friends of the nine children and if he had considered the police interviewing the parents without taking the children into care on the mainland. Mr Lee said: "We did not see that there was any other way. The way the information came did not give us any confidence that the children would be safe in Orkney."

Asked by Mr Morrison what actions he took over the 13 days from the date of obtaining the place of safety orders until the seizures, Mr Lee said

his department contacted the education department for information about the children. It had been impossible to monitor what was going on in the families because of the confidential nature of the operation and there might have been a leak.

Mr Morrison said that he believed that the head teacher of the primary school attended by some of the children had no concerns about them apart from educational matters.

Mr Lee said that his department had not spoken to the local general practitioner or to a district nurse about the affair. When the W family children were taken, the GP had refused to tell police the whereabouts of the youngest child. Mr Morrison suggested that Mr Lee and his staff did not trust the GP or the district nurse. "I was uncertain about the GP's position," Mr Lee said.

He also agreed that he had not contacted the former deputy director of social work who lived in South Ronaldsay. Mr Lee said that the man had retired to work his craft and wanted nothing to do with social work. "I did not think I had the right to ask him about people living in the same area," Mr Morrison said that that was a serious omission. The enquiry continues on Monday.

Arctic sailor in court

Jack Lammiman appeared in court yesterday charged with sailing to the Arctic in an unseaworthy boat that had been impounded. He docked in his home town of Whitby, Yorkshire, this week after his 3,000-mile trip.

Mr Lammiman, 52, and his crew retraced the voyage of William Scoresby, the 18th century whaling captain.

Transport department officials handed Mr Lammiman a summons when he returned in the 60-year-old boat. He appeared at Whitby magistrates charged with sailing in a boat that had been detained. He did not enter a plea and the case was adjourned.

Company fined

Performance Chemicals Ltd, of Rotherhithe, southeast London, which broke health and safety regulations when a man died in a fume-filled tank, was fined £20,500 by Inner London crown court.

Jaguar support

Eight Jaguar aircraft from RAF Coltishall, Norfolk, are to fly to Incirlik in Turkey to bolster Gulf coalition forces.

Hanging attempt

A man is on a life support machine after trying to hang himself while held at Barnstaple police station, Devon.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

My own story by Raisa

My father Maxim Andreyevich worked on the railways all his life. Whenever I filled in questionnaires I always wrote: father a railway employee. Non-party. Oh yes, non-party. Faith in the



party came to my father along with Mikhail Sergeyevich, my husband.

Tomorrow, in her own words, exclusive to The Sunday Times, Raisa Gorbacheva reveals the story of her childhood, her marriage and her life with Mikhail right up to the dramatic events of recent weeks

War breaks out over sign of peace

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

WAR is breaking out in the hallowed pews of the Church of England over the "peace" where members of a congregation turn to each other and kiss, hug or shake hands. Some clergy are calling for it to be banned while others say its place in the service should be revised.

Many traditionalists, who prefer the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, say the presence of a Christian at a church service is enough to show they love their neighbour. "All this shaking of hands and giving the sign of the peace is unnecessary," Margot Thompson, secretary of the Prayer Book Society, said.

Canon Arthur Fielder of

Amphill, Bedfordshire, said: "The French do it to one another all the time, but we British have never really taken to the idea." He said that churchgoers were embarrassed because it was alien to their daily life and felt bogus.

Canon Fielder's comments, in *The Church of England Newspaper*, have provoked support and outrage in the church. The debate is expected to run throughout the decade of evangelism, at the end of which the remit of the current Alternative Service Book expires. In the notes to holy communion, Rite B, the book says: "The priest may accompany the words of the peace with a handclasp ...

and both the words and the action may be passed through the congregation."

The bishop of Chester, the Right Rev Michael Baughen, said: "Some people feel the peace interrupts the flow of the service. I personally am happy with it but I can see how some people feel it is a rather false thing to suddenly get up and greet people. The ASB will be revised at the end of the decade and people are beginning to think about it already."

The peace has the backing of liturgical experts in the church. Canon Donald Gray, chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons and chairman of the inter-church

joint liturgical group, said the peace was greatly loved, but some churchgoers who were embarrassed by it found ingenious ways to avoid it, such as folding their arms or rooting around in handbags.

It should be neither a bear hug nor like shaking hands at a reception, he said. "Two hands rather than one is preferable."

Canon Michael Seward, of St Paul's cathedral, said: "Most people do not understand what it is meant to be and assume it is some sort of universal pressure to be matey. I was taught that what we are doing at this point is being united in peace with Christ."

Crash enquiry begins

By BILL FROST

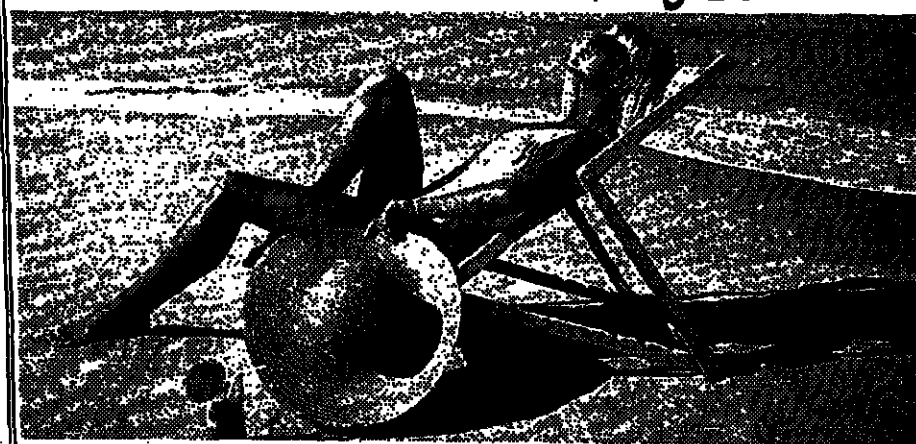
THE enquiry into a mid-air collision over Wales in which an RAF pilot who had undergone a heart and lung transplant and a pilot of a light aircraft died will consider if Wing Cdr John Mardon's condition was a factor in the accident.

Investigators will also have to establish if he or his copilot, who broke an arm, was at the controls of the Jaguar fighter bomber. The civilian

pilot was named yesterday as Robbie Cooper, aged 45, of Wolverhampton.

Group Captain Phil Dacre, base commander at RAF Coltishall, said Wing Cdr Mardon's medical category allowed him to fly unaccompanied. "It is possible that he could have been in control of the aircraft and, in effect, flying it," Group Capt Dacre said. The training Jaguar had dual controls.

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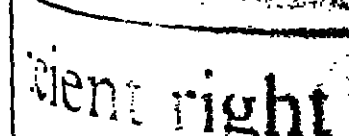
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1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the situation.

2. Once the problem is identified, the next step is to define the objectives and goals of the project. This helps to clarify what needs to be achieved and provides a clear direction for the team.

3. The third step is to develop a plan or strategy to address the problem. This involves breaking down the problem into smaller, manageable tasks and determining the resources needed to complete them.

4. The fourth step is to implement the plan. This involves putting the strategy into action and monitoring progress regularly to ensure that the project is on track.

5. The final step is to evaluate the results of the project. This involves assessing the outcomes against the objectives and goals and identifying any lessons learned for future projects.

سید امتیاز الحسن

COMMUNITY CARE

Daily spending on mentally ill 'only cost of a cup of tea'

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE health service spends no more than the price of a cup of tea a day on community care for the mentally ill, Anthony Clare, the psychiatrist and broadcaster, said yesterday.

Professor Clare, of St Patrick's hospital, Dublin, argued that mental illness received only a fraction of the recognition given to heart disease and cancer, although it is as common as the former and three times more prolific than the latter.

Although care of the mentally ill was the biggest item of National Health Service expenditure, at £2 billion a year, most of that money went to the 60,000 patients in psychiatric hospitals, rather

than the five million in the community.

"We spend £72 a day, the price of a four-star hotel room, on each of those hospital patients, but just 29p a day, the price of a cup of tea, on the rest," he said.

Speaking at the British Association meeting in Plymouth, he said the government was making a brave attempt to improve community care and release patients from asylums. But there were three million sufferers in society with serious psychiatric conditions who were receiving minimal attention.

The core of the problem was that public attitudes towards the mentally sick had im-

proved little since the days of Bedlam. "The historical legacy is still with us. We continue to regard these individuals as bizarre, frightening, disturbing, with the connotation that somehow they only have themselves to blame," Professor Clare said.

Yet one in ten was affected by a mental disorder, and of those, 37 died as a direct result every day and 13 committed suicide. "The cost in terms of personal suffering for the mentally ill and their families is incalculable," he said.

Apart from more money and resources, a better understanding of mental illness and a more caring approach towards sufferers was needed, he said.

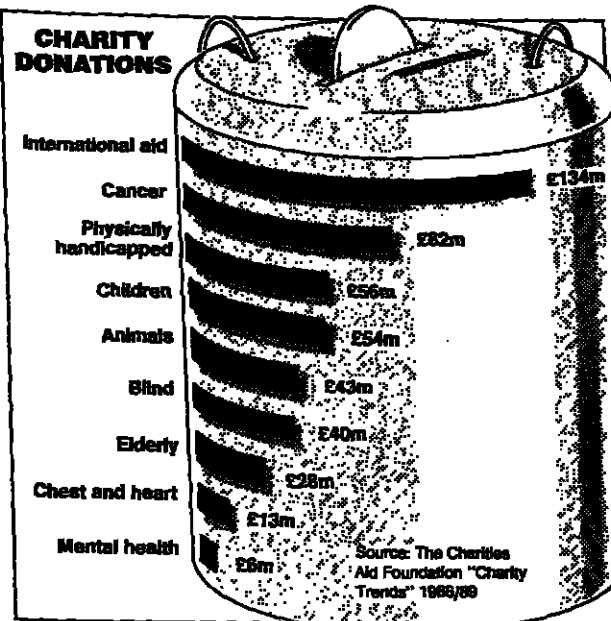
Robert Stout, professor of geriatric medicine at Queen's university, Belfast, said that the treatment of some elderly people was unacceptable. "The idea that people should spend months or years at the end of their lives in large open hospital wards with few of their possessions around them, little privacy, but nevertheless often receiving the best possible quality of medical and nursing care, should no longer be acceptable," he said.

"The concept of housing with care, where people can live in their own dwellings and have the care brought to them, ought to be promoted much more fully."

Developers, architects and house builders should be in mind that houses would in due course be occupied by elderly people.

"If we design houses for old people, they can be occupied quite effectively and comfortably by younger people," Professor Stout said. "The problem is that so many of our houses are designed for young people, and are not suitable for the old."

Ideally, living accommodation should be able to be managed by people at varying stages of their lives, without the need for frequent moves. "It is much better to be able to bring the care to the patient's home than to have to move the person," he said.



RURAL SAFETY

Dangers lurk in peace of the country

By NIGEL HAWKES

JUST when you thought it was safe to go out, Britain's first professor of countryside management has issued a list of the dangers lurking amid the rural calm.

Rogue diseases, allergies, uncontrolled power tools, biting insects and polluted water pose dangers for those recently moved from town to country or simply taking a stroll. Roy Brown, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, suggested at the British Association meeting that the only way to get around the country safely was in protective clothing with a complex sensing system to warn of dangers.

"If you swim you are likely to drown or be poisoned by polluted water, not to mention the midges which get you when you come out," he said. "A walk on the moors may result in a tick bite leading to arthritic disease, while inhaling spores from bracken may give rise to even worse ailments. Even cutting the grass or trimming the hedge could be fatal. Scratch yourself on a bramble and you might get hepatitis."

Professor Brown's aim was to show those shifting from town to country that the move is not without dangers. The greatest risk area is the garden where almost 30,000 accidents occurred last year. Power tools caused 45 per cent of accidents, while 4,000 people injured themselves with spades, 5,000 with forks and 1,500 with secateurs. Most could be avoided by common sense.

Leading article, page 11

MEDICAL ADVANCE

Breast cancer death rate reduced

By THOMSON PRENTICE

THE risk of breast cancer patients dying from the disease within ten years of receiving drug treatment has been reduced by more than 25 per cent, a leading specialist said yesterday.

However, a total cure would come not from drugs or surgery, but from understanding the genetic abnormalities that cause cancer, Michael Baum, of the Royal Marsden hospital, London, said.

"I recognise as a cancer surgeon that to rise above the plateau of rates of cure is beyond the competence of surgery, and may be beyond chemotherapy. The solution is likely to be a biological one," he said.

It was wrong to believe that any cancer was terminal because cures were being achieved. However, doctors were putting more emphasis on the quality of life for sufferers. Professor Baum said: "Many of my patients show a remarkable ability to readjust during the progress of their disease. They maintain surprisingly high levels of well-being despite their illness."

Studies showed little difference in survival rates between women who had a mastectomy and those who had treatment that allowed the breast to remain. "This enables us to give women a choice," Professor Baum said. In a group of his patients offered that choice, 30 per cent opted for a mastectomy. "They felt it was a once-and-for-all operation with little risk of recurrence," he said.



Sir Denis Rooke, left, with Sir David Attenborough who yesterday succeeded him as BA president

Dinosaur lives on with blunted teeth

THE British Association is a venerable body that exists on only the most tenuous financial basis, Sir David Attenborough, its new president, said yesterday.

After a week in which much time has been spent discussing dinosaurs, it would be tempting to draw the obvious parallel. Indeed, the association has some of the dinosaurs' charm, impressive but ever threatened with extinction. Can a group that emerged when science was still a pastime, and a well-educated man could hope to encompass it all, have a future in a world riven into narrow specialisms?

Some 3,500 people have attended sessions at Polytect South West this week. The archetypal BA regular is, perhaps, a retired female teacher who might best be played by the late Margaret Rutherford. In recent years, those solid citi-

zens have been joined by younger people, including sixth formers who receive bursaries to attend.

There is little professional kudos in lecturing to the BA, but publicity awaits those who combine sensational claims with a plausible manner.

The days when original findings were reported to the BA are long past. Now the trick is to find interesting tidbits, clothe them in academic language and decorate them with a catchy phrase.

The lecturer who pulled off that feat most successfully this week was Dr Helen Haste, president of the psychology section, with her characterisation of women as wives, whores, waiters or witches. Her use of Ma-

donna as her example was the masterpiece.

A close runner-up was Dr Michael Fuller, who cavorted growing cauliflower that tasted of cheese. Asked whether this would be possible, he replied: "Somewhere between a pipe-dream and never." That judgment could apply to some other contributions this week, but then, the BA is science with its hair down.

For Sir David, the association's function is to try to dispel three fallacies of science: that it is incomprehensible, dull or dangerous. "We should emphasise the part it plays in our lives," he said. "Not only is it indispensable, it is a source of the deepest pleasures and excitement."

Nobody leaving Plymouth yesterday, however, doubted the need for the BA to soldier on. Extinction was the last thing on anybody's mind.

NAME CHANGES

Three cheers for plain old English

By NIGEL HAWKES

TRADITIONAL place names are being eroded by "faceless people" at the BBC and the United Nations, the geography section of the British Association was told yesterday.

Dr Herbert Sandford, of the College of St Mark and St John, Plymouth, spoke in defence of names such as Peking and Canton and against the modern versions, Beijing and Guangzhou. The old forms, he said, were being eroded in favour of "a veritable babel of meaningless foreign unpronounceables and unspellables."

He told the story of a traveller booking a ticket to Peking, who was told by a young travel agent: "You can't fly to Peking. That's the capital; the airport's at Beijing."

Dr Sandford, who described himself as fellow and consultant at large of the centre for cartopedagogic studies in Plymouth, blamed the government's permanent committee on geographical names and the BBC for the "march into the mire".

The committee actively participates in the corruption of the language, he said, while the BBC constantly prescribes new pronunciations. "Auntie Beeb's power to pervert our language is indeed impressive," Dr Sandford said.

"Bully for the Britisher who's not afraid to speak his mother tongue," he added. "Bully for the one who still says Archangel instead of Arkhangelsk and bully for the who's kept saying Cambodia for, after some dalliance with Campuchea, the official name is now back to our familiar Cambodia."

"Let us protest this corruption by the perverting language mongers," he declared. "Let us denounce them, utterly and now. Let us insist upon our Peking. To Hell with Beijing."



Ancient right to burn peat preserved

By PETER DAVENPORT

FIFTY residents of hamlets in the Pennine foothills of West Yorkshire have beaten off a threat to end their ancient right, first granted in Saxon times under Edward the Confessor, to burn peat in their homes.

The 17,000 acres of the Gravelship of Holme were to be included in a new smoke-control zone to come into operation next spring. Officials of Kirkstall council rejected appeals from the "hearth holders" to allow them to continue their tradition, although the environment department said the council had the power to do so.

The Gravelship was one of 12 formed when the ancient Manor of Wakefield was divided and is now believed to be the only one. Under its ancient charter, residents are allowed to dig peat on land owned on their behalf by a "constable".

The hearth holders refused to accept defeat, secured the support of Graham Riddick, Conservative MP for Colne

Valley, and threatened to take the local authority to the European Court of Human Rights. Now the council has reconsidered and has granted an exemption to the smoke control legislation.

A council spokesman said yesterday: "It was decided that, because of the historic and long established practice of peat burning and because it involved a relatively small number of people, an exemption could be granted in this case. The exemption followed talks between the leader of the council, the Gravelship and officers from the environmental services department. An annual list of peat burners will be supplied to us so that we can monitor the situation."

The decision marks a victory for the peat burners after a five-year campaign. Arthur Quarumby, an architect and constable of the Gravelship of Holme - centred on seven ancient townships in the Holme Valley - was elected to the post ten years ago, following his father in

a family tradition. "This is a triumph for the little man and a victory for a little bit of old England," said Mr Quarumby.

"People said we would never beat the council and the government, but we have proved them wrong. It was difficult to believe that something granted to us by Edward the Confessor all those hundreds of years ago was going to fall because of bureaucracy."

Mr Quarumby said that research had shown that peat performed as well as permitted smokeless fuels and that Dublin had continued to allow its use, when all other solid fuels were banned in the city, as it moved to meet European Community conditions on air quality. Although the exemption covers about 10,000 people who live in the Gravelship, only 30 to 50 households a year regularly cut and burn peat.

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Out of Town, page 14

NEONATAL CARE

Survival chances of premature babies improve

By OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

ADVANCES in the intensive care of premature babies have so improved their prospects of survival that specialists are now concentrating on the babies' long-term welfare.

Neil Marlow, a specialist in neonatal care at Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children, told the association that 40 years ago in Britain, six out of ten premature babies weighing less than 3½lb at birth died and two out of ten survivors were handicapped. There is now a 65 per cent survival rate and only about 10 per cent have such handicaps as cerebral palsy.

"We can throw technology at these children and do astounding things in allowing their survival," Dr Marlow said. "But we need to make absolutely sure that the survivor's quality of life is as high as possible."

One consequence of the progress is that many mothers whose babies survive feel guilty that they failed to produce a normal infant. They and other family members might also find it difficult to cope with the baby's needs at when eventually it goes home.

A study of Merseyside babies born 12 or more weeks premature and continued until they were eight years old, showed that most were achieving their full potential. However, about 30 per cent were impaired in their movement, behaviour and learning.

"There is a continuum of impairment associated with neonatal illness which may not be apparent until middle childhood," Dr Marlow said. "But there is no evidence that major handicap is more frequent among babies who have had neonatal intensive care, and the vast majority of such babies appear to reach their potential and have a normal quality of life."

A premature infant project in Avon, funded by Action Research, is studying the effects of medical intervention in babies eight or more weeks premature, and the value of offering health worker support to their parents.

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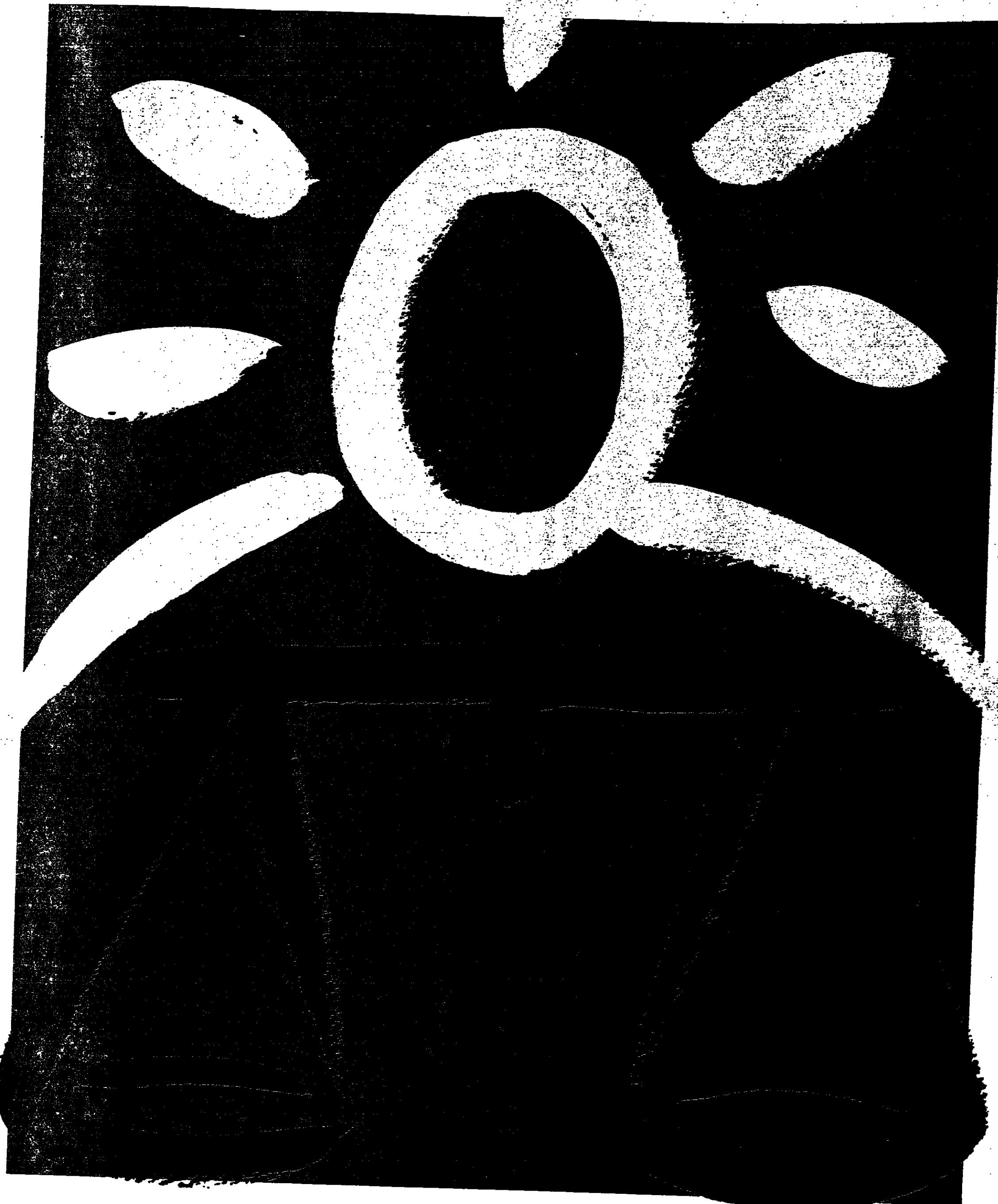
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مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Twin-track policy as the West pushes for reform in Moscow and courts Peking

American backing boosts Major in his mission to East

From ROBIN OAKLEY IN WASHINGTON AND CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

JOHN Major flies to Moscow tomorrow for a meeting at which, he and President Bush have agreed, he must persuade Gorbachev and Yeltsin that there is only a limited opportunity to launch economic reform and prevent chaos in the Soviet Union.

Britain and America, setting the pace within the Group of Seven, currently chaired by the British prime minister, will next month send in the first "lifeline teams" of experts in food production and distribution. They are prepared, after their holiday talks in Maine, to press for the early accession to the International Monetary Fund of the newly independent Baltic republics and possibly of individual Soviet republics.

Mr Major, who flies out after little more than 24 hours in Britain, will be the first Western leader to visit the Soviet Union since the abortive coup. He arrived back yesterday, delighted by the success of his working holiday with Mr Bush and with a remarkable endorsement which will not be without value in election year. At an informal clam bake late on Thursday night, Mr Bush, not a man given to hyperbole, followed his earlier tributes to Mr Major's chairmanship of the G7 summit by declaring that there was now between the United States and Britain an "extraordinarily special relationship".

It was the formal endorsement of what British officials

believe to be a demonstrable fact. Eighteen months ago the White House was ringing Bonn before London. But there has been no looking back since the speed and extent of British support in the Gulf war reminded America where its closest European ally was still to be found.

Mr Bush and his advisers believe in a more integrated Europe and are anxious for Europe to do more for its own defence. But they are also worried about a "Fortress Europe" and one which arrives at defence decisions without consulting them. They are looking to Mr Major to bridge the gap, safeguarding their defence interests in Nato and persuading his European Community colleagues that the talks in this round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade must be completed by the end of the year if a trade war is to be avoided.

Officials believe that Mr Bush has a true regard for Mr Major's political feel. The Kennedys' trip saw them shading the small Anglo-American differences over the speed of Soviet access to the IMF and over recognition of Baltic independence. A genuine warmth was apparent between the two.

When Mr Major arrives in Peking on Monday, neither he nor his hosts will miss the irony of his rapid progress from the scene of newly deceased communism in the Soviet Union to its very heartland in China.

In stark contrast to his trip to Moscow, which is aimed at bolstering anti-communist reform, the effect of Mr Major's visit to China will be to bolster Peking's hardline communists. He will be the first leader of a Western industrialised nation to visit Peking since the killing of unarmed demonstrators in Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989.

The Chinese, who invited Mr Major, are eager for an end to the ban on high-level visits which was imposed after the killings. Peking is believed to have requested Mr Major's visit in exchange for their seal of approval for Hong Kong's new airport. During his visit Mr Major will sign the airport agreement, which will enshrine the right of the Chinese government to a large say in the running of the British territory before 1997.

Having urged the Soviet Union towards political reform, Mr Major is expected to find himself tongue-tied when talking to the Chinese leadership, his concerns about democratisation outweighed by fear of antagonising Peking and thus causing problems over Hong Kong.

Recent events in the Soviet Union have served to bring Peking's political paralysis



How's that? George Bush tries out a cricket bat signed by the England Test team — a farewell gift from John Major

into sharp relief in the eyes of the world. "I'm sure the Chinese will be eager to hear Mr Major's impressions, although we approach the situation in the Soviet Union from different ends of the spectrum," one diplomat said. What has happened in the Soviet Union, however, is

expected to do nothing to change Mr Major's message on Hong Kong, which is one of co-operation with Peking in the period before 1997. Mr Major is expected to keep his remarks on human rights low-key. He is likely to avoid pressing Peking for concessions on a faster pace of

democratisation in Hong Kong before 1997.

British officials suggest that Mr Major's visit will not mean complete normalisation of relations, and that the crushing of the pro-democracy demonstrations has not been forgotten. To Peking, however, Mr Major's visit means

just that. Yesterday Wu Jianmin, the foreign ministry spokesman, said: "I think Prime Minister Major's forthcoming visit to China marks the resumption of normal ties between our two countries."

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Letter, page 11

NUCLEAR ARMS

Bush puts brave face on shift in control

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

BEHIND President Bush's studied wait-and-see response to the turmoil in the Soviet Union, American officials are trying to calculate the effects of the fragmentation of the rival superpower on the security of its nuclear arsenal.

Concern about stability in the Soviet Union since the failed coup is a likely boon for the American conservatives. Richard Cheney, the defence secretary and their leading voice of caution about Soviet affairs in the Bush administration, has cited possible civil war, famine and questions about the future control of weapons in breakaway republics as grounds for ignoring Democrat pressure to increase defence spending cuts.

So far, President Bush and other senior officials have put a brave public face on the threat to American security posed by the command of Soviet nuclear weapons passing to individual republics. On Thursday, at a press conference with John Major, Mr Bush was confident that whoever ended up in charge "will do the right thing".

In a poll released yesterday by NBC News and *The Wall Street Journal*, 57 per cent of Americans were edgy about the Kremlin's hold on nuclear weapons as republics assert their independence. Only 14 per cent said they were unconcerned about future safety.

COMMUNIST ALLIES

Kabul radiates confidence in Soviet support

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

PRESIDENT Najibullah of Afghanistan was confident yesterday that the Soviet Union would continue supporting him and his beleaguered government even though most of his staunchest allies have been ousted.

He said that he had received no indication that Moscow would reduce supplies of food, fuel or weapons, because signed agreements existed between the two countries.

Dr Najibullah was adamant that he would not resign to allow an interim government to be established prior to elections, a consistent demand of the Americans. Such a move would not be in the interests of democracy. He said that the United States might reduce military supplies to the mujahedin rebels fighting to overthrow him. This might mean that



Najibullah: adapted to changes in Moscow extremists would be more inclined to enter a dialogue with the state.

For all Dr Najibullah's confidence about his relationship with the Soviet Union, there are real concerns in Kabul about Moscow's ability and desire to maintain aid levels, which America has estimated at about \$300 million (£175 million) a month. While that figure is probably an exaggeration, the commitment is a burden that Moscow would like to shed. Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, had demanded an end to the supply of arms and said that weapons for Afghanistan should not pass through Russia.

Asked about the likelihood of food shortages this winter, Dr Najibullah said that every country at war suffered food shortages, high prices, even starva-

tion. The government will give priority to feeding its military forces of 500,000 this winter, as well as the large and privileged bureaucracy. For the rest, the winter will be hard because of prohibitive prices of food and heating fuel.

Dr Najibullah said that he would like the deposed king, Zahir Shah, aged 75, to return from exile in Italy. He had "some criticism of the king" for not coming home and taking part in the peace process.

As for American demands that he step down before elections are held, he said: "We are prepared for free, direct, secret elections supervised by the United Nations and other international agencies. The authority should be given to the people to make the choice. It is time for all of us to hold tightly to the principles of democracy."

Even Dr Najibullah's fiercest opponents must be impressed by his staying power, despite a war that has cost a million lives and practically demolished the national infrastructure. The Americans overestimated the strength of the mujahedin groups, which continue to fight among themselves. Their inability to co-ordinate military action is the main reason for the government's survival.

Dr Najibullah said that the relationship between Afghanistan and Moscow was deep and historic, and he had received no "signals" from Moscow regarding the "non-fulfilment of the Soviet Union's commitments". He added: "We hope the Soviet Union, as a guarantor of the Geneva accords, will fulfil its obligations towards expediting a peaceful and political solution to the Afghan problem." Co-operation between the two countries would continue within the framework of agreements. Mutual co-operation had continued despite events in both countries. Afghanistan wanted to expand this co-operation.

Dr Najibullah has adapted his political outlook to changes in the Soviet Union. He has abandoned communism and renamed his party, which proclaimed Marxism, the Homeland party. He said that the free market was keeping Afghan market-places full.

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Yeltsin piles up points in union bout with Gorbachev



Shevardnadze: refused to join security council

AS THE republics of the Soviet Union and its restored president, Mikhail Gorbachev, continued to jockey for power, Boris Yeltsin, the Russian leader, has made a flying visit to Latvia, reportedly to discuss a possible compromise over Baltic independence. While Mr Yeltsin supports full independence, President Gorbachev is believed to harbour misgivings, despite almost worldwide recognition for the three republics.

Earlier, Mr Yeltsin had delivered a radio address setting out his vision of the new Soviet Union and Russia's role in it. "The concept of the union is not exhausted," he said. "There is still a strong desire for a new, really free and really voluntary union of sovereign and, I stress, equal states... We

should not be scared because several republics have declared independence... the republics themselves will create the new centre."

Both Mr Yeltsin's trip to Latvia and his address showed that the Russian leader was not intent on splitting the union. His union, however, would be very different from Mr Gorbachev's new union. While the Soviet president favours a strong centre with its own institutions, Mr Yeltsin has inclined increasingly to the idea of a unitarist centre which exists courtesy of the republics.

Mr Yeltsin's union would include a reduced army, a co-ordinated foreign policy, a single central bank and a single currency, a single energy and transport system where necessary to cross

Competing concepts of the new Soviet Union underlie the struggle for power between Gorbachev and Yeltsin, Mary Dejevsky writes

republic boundaries, and a small, federal police force like the Federal Bureau of Investigation. All central institutions would be ruled by inter-republic committees.

Mr Gorbachev still wants a centre to be represented by people who might be regarded as "all-union", or "Soviet", rather than Russian or Ukrainian, for example. He wanted the security council to comprise not only the heads of the nine republics but two members of the former security council and six personal nominees, plus himself. Three of these,

including Eduard Shevardnadze, the former foreign minister, have declined.

The disagreement between Mr Gorbachev and Mr Yeltsin on the shape of the union has always existed, despite the alliance they forged in April and despite superficial agreement on the new Union Treaty. The final version of the treaty fudged key questions of taxation, property ownership and management of natural resources, because this was the only way agreement was possible.

The power struggle between Mr Gorbachev and

Mr Yeltsin in the past week relates to their competing concepts of the new union, and the comparative success of each has to be seen in terms of what they are trying to achieve.

Mr Yeltsin was so far ahead yesterday that it was hard to see how he could be beaten. Most of Mr Gorbachev's attempts to hold the centre together had been frustrated.

The republics had continued to declare independence. He had failed to convince Soviet television audiences that the union parliament was serving any useful function. He had no new prime minister and only fragments of a union government. He had appointed a new head of the KGB, a new defence minister and a new interior minister, but Mr Yeltsin's

hand could be seen in each appointment.

Most of Mr Gorbachev's actions over the past week have been related to the dismantling of the old structures, not creating new ones. Almost his only positive action has been the establishment of the Russia-dominated interim economic committee and a presidential committee to oversee communications (to involve republic representatives).

Mr Yeltsin, by contrast, now has officials from the Russian Federation in almost every senior economic post, including that of chairman of the state bank. Mr Yeltsin has decreed Russian control of Communist party property and archives on its territory, KGB archives, government and KGB communications systems, and

the emergency control he announced over troops on Russian territory during the coup has not been rescinded.

While Mr Yeltsin has taken a great deal of real power for Russia over the past ten days, he has done nothing to suggest that he intends to encroach on the rights of other republics which would make up his version of a new Soviet Union. All his decrees have been restricted to matters relating to Russian territory.

Mr Gorbachev will soon have to decide whether he can stomach Mr Yeltsin's vision as the only feasible union, or resign and let the republics get on with a confederation, as many now favour. A test of his intentions will be his attitude to direct presidential elections.

THE UKRAINE

Party to be outlawed as nationalists tighten grip

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

THE Communist party in the Ukraine was expected to be outlawed last night as the republic's nationalist politicians strengthened their hold on government policy.

The party apparatus in Kiev, the Ukrainian capital, was deeply implicated in the failed hardline coup last week after documents bearing the signature of the party leader, Stanislav Hurenko, were discovered in the party headquarters. The ban, which was expected to be made by the Ukraine's praesidium yesterday evening, will formally declare illegal all party activities in the Ukraine, which it achieves independence will become the second largest country in Europe after Russia.

The ruling praesidium also announced eight measures to be put before the parliament in Kiev next week, which include the demand for the Ukraine's share of gold and hard currency reserves held by the Soviet central authorities

to be returned, and the immediate transfer of all state-run enterprises from Soviet to republican control. Before this summer Moscow ministries had run 95 per cent of the Ukraine's industries.

The speed at which the Ukraine's normally plodding government has pounced on the dying body of the party here, historically the most powerful of all 15 republican Communist parties, is proof of the determination of the republic's government to oust the Communists from its decision-making processes. Arrests of those implicated in the coup are not expected to begin until next week, when the republic's parliament will start its autumn session. This week 56 MPs said that they were resigning from the Communist party.

Other plans announced yesterday include the protection of foreign investments, a change in agricultural policy, and the creation of a Ukrainian news service. "This has been a remarkable week, a historic week for the Ukraine. We have proclaimed independence before, and have learnt how to die for it. But before now we have failed to create an independent state," said Mykhailo Horyn, a leader of the republic's independence movement, Rukh.

Although nationalist politicians hold few key jobs here, they set the tune to which politicians, tainted by their membership of the Communist party, have had to dance. The republic's current political leader, Leonid Kravchuk, is one of those who has tried swiftly to align himself with the new forces of power.

The party's expected banning clears the way for a clean-out of the Ukraine's corrupt political old-boy network. Although most senior Communists are still in the positions of influence and power they occupied before the coup, the majority of them are expected to go the same way as their party in the coming months.

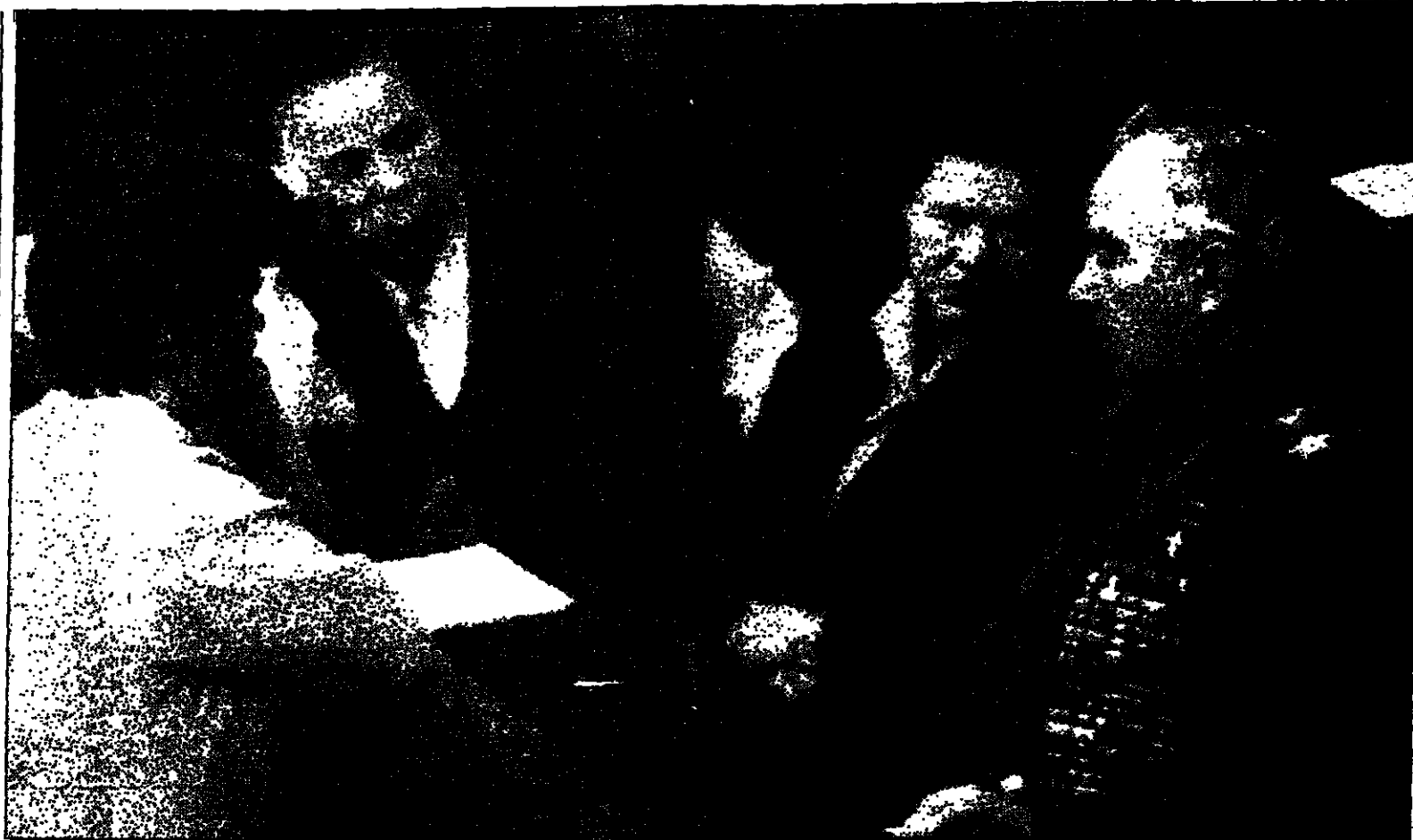
Critics claim that the Ukrainian Communist party's complicity in the coup is proved by coded telegrams sent from coup leaders in Moscow outlining the course of action the Ukrainian Communists should take after the seizure of power.

APPARATCHIKS Doors close on seats of power

Moscow — Heads down, clutching boxes of books, a plant or an electric coffee pot, the apparatchiks of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist party could be seen yesterday leaving their offices for the last time.

The imposing building in Old Square, which until last week housed the offices of the party leadership, had been sealed by the Moscow city government. Yesterday armed police were searching parcels being taken out.

A group of about 50 former employees stood silently outside the door to the socio-economic department in the back of the building, which for decades had symbolised party power. The front of the building was blocked and most had to use a side entrance in a narrow street in the old Kitai Gorod district, once a warren of alleys and churches that was almost entirely pulled down to make way for the complex of buildings. (AFP)



Backbench lobby: three women deputies corner Marshal Viktor Kulikov, the former commander of the now defunct Warsaw Pact, to discuss events in Moscow during a break yesterday at the Supreme Soviet. The sacked parliamentary chairman, Anatoli Lukyanov, has been charged with treason.

RUSSIAN RESISTANCE

Kabul venture provided freedom's champions

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

WHEN Leonid Brezhnev sent troops to Afghanistan in December 1979 to prop up the Kabul regime, he can hardly have imagined that, less than 12 years later, the venture would produce an alternative army able to topple Soviet communism. Yet that is how the Afghan veterans who masterminded last week's defence of the White House, the Russian parliament, see it.

Sasha received serious leg and arm wounds in the Afghan campaign. Now an invalid "second class", he was on the barricade which halted the first tank advance on the night of August 20 and saw Dima Komar, one of his Afghan comrades, killed.

This week, curled up in a grimy quilt in the front cabin of one of the barricade buses listening to a rock cassette, Sasha has been helping to keep watch over the site in the central Moscow underpass where Komar and two other young men died that night.

Critics remember Tuesday night last week as he remembers Afghanistan, as a combination of military strategy, personal challenge and inevitable loss. Veterans of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, known as "Afghans", played a dominant role in the defence of the Russian parliament.

"In Afghanistan we were doing our small civic duty. Then we saw how they treated us when we came home. Nothing just nothing." Last week, he and his comrades in arms suddenly had a cause: Russia, freedom, and Yeltsin.

Sasha said he heard about possible military deployments in Moscow as early as the previous Friday. "Afghans" still serving in one of the elite divisions near Moscow had tipped him off, and not only him. Over the weekend leading up to the coup, "Afghans" converged on Moscow from all over Russia, just in case. On the Monday morning when the first tank convoys arrived, they went to the "White House" and started to build their defences.

Sasha gave a detailed account of the Afghan experience as it applied to central Moscow. "You see, you have to know how a tank works and how it behaves. You have to build barricades with a certain

gradient if you want to stop it. But that's not enough. You need spikes and pieces jutting out. Really, you have to immobilise it. Petrol bombs in bottles are not big enough even for the light tanks they were using. You have to have really big containers, you need to add carbide to the petrol, and you have to throw them under the path of the tank, so that it destroys its caterpillar track. Then it can't move properly. Then you can attack it from the top and behind. It can't reverse, and you have to make sure it can't turn round."

Sasha and his "Afghans" comrades — "Captain Valeri", Vadim, the paratrooper, and Sveta, from Moldavia, who had been in the medical corps — were the foot soldiers who defended the "White House". "Sveta is all right," Sasha said. "She's the only woman we'll have around. We know she keeps calm."

But "Afghans" were also prominent in the Russian high command. Aleksandr Rutskoi, the Russian Federation's vice-president, was a decorated fighter pilot; Konstantin Kobets, the Russian defence minister, also saw service in Afghanistan, as did the two senior Soviet commanders — Yevgeny Shaposhnikov of the air force and Pavel Grachev of the paratroopers — who refused orders to support the coup.

Viktor Gromov, the most famous of the Soviet Union's Afghan heroes, however, took the wrong side last week. Although not directly implicated in the coup plot, he nailed his colours to the hardliners' mast by signing a newspaper appeal only days before the coup which called for army intervention. He now claims that he had gone on holiday without authorising the use of his name, but his reputation is soiled.



Fallen idol: a young girl with a head for heights explores the Lenin monument which was toppled outside a factory in Vilnius last week



ASIAN REPUBLICS

Azerbaijan joins popular rush to win independence

By HAZHUR TEIMOURIAN

AZERBAIJAN, a southern Soviet republic, yesterday declared itself independent. Kazakhstan, in the north, apparently did likewise but without formally saying so, instead signing a treaty with the Russian Federation that refers to "the former Soviet Union". The treaty gives Kazakhstan joint control with Russia of all Soviet armed forces and nuclear establishments on its soil.

Azerbaijan, with the unanimous decision of the state parliament in Baku to declare the country immediately independent, became the ninth former constituent of the Soviet Union to break away. Only six states now formally remain in the union, four of them with Muslim majorities.

The parliamentary resolution that changed the status of the republic said: "Considering that Azerbaijan was from 1918-1920 an independent state recognised by the international community, and in accordance with the state constitution and the law on the sovereignty of republics, we declare the restoration of the independence of the state." The assembly also imposed the state of emergency on the republic by Moscow after the anti-Armenian riots in January last year. Later it was debating the setting up of a national guard.

The independence decision was unexpected, since the Azerbaijani parliament remains under the control of hardline communists who participated in the violent suppression of the nationalist demonstrations of early 1990. The leaders of that movement, the Popular Front, called for the declaration of independence to be put to a referendum, clearly suspecting that Ayaz

Mutallibov, the republic's leader, was resorting to the ploy to escape the censure of Moscow. Immediately after last week's coup, Azerbaijan broadcast a statement of support for it, although this was withdrawn when it became clear that the coup leaders were facing difficulty.

Kazakhstan, the second largest republic in the union, signed the treaty with the Russian Federation yesterday in the hope that it will avert the danger of war with Russia. Nursultan Nazarbayev, the Kazakh president, a hitherto hesitant ally of President Gorbachev, signed the treaty with Aleksandr Rutskoi, the Russian vice-president. The treaty commits Kazakhstan to military and economic co-operation with Russia on the model of an agreement that Russia signed with the Ukraine on Thursday.

While speaking of "the former Soviet Union", the treaty supports the earlier decision of Mr Nazarbayev to shut down the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing centre and speaks of "the strategic importance" of Kazakhstan. All "decisions, problems of military strategy, space research and communications must be taken on the basis of consultations and agreements between the states only", the text of the treaty says.

On Monday, Kazakhstan and the Ukraine were alarmed when a spokesman for Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, said that Russia reserved the right to review its borders with any neighbouring republic that decided to break away from the union. About 38 per cent of the population of Kazakhstan is believed to be Russian and Ukrainian, Only 36 per cent is Kazakh.

Moldavia Russians threaten blockade

Tiraspol — Ethnic Russians in Moldavia threatened to cut off power and gas to the rest of the breakaway republic yesterday after their leader was arrested on suspicion of supporting last week's Soviet coup. The city council of Tiraspol, capital of the Russian-speaking Dnestr region, said it would shut down a gas pipeline, cut off electricity and block roads and railways unless Igor Smirnov, the Russian minority leader, was freed.

A Moldavian interior ministry spokesman said earlier that Moldavian police had seized Mr Smirnov on Thursday in the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, and taken him back to the Moldavian capital, Kishinev, to face accusations of supporting the coup.

"The sanctions will have a strong impact on Moldavia," Tiraspol's deputy mayor, Vladimir Rilyakov, said. "We expect the Kishinev government will realise with force. But we are ready to defend ourselves and use the same weapons they use against us."

Leaders of the Dnestr region say that they represent 700,000 people who want no part of an independent Moldavia dominated by ethnic Romanians. (Reuters)

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Leaders of the Dnestr region say that they represent 700,000 people who want no part of an independent Moldavia dominated by ethnic Romanians. (Reuters)

Links restored

Lisbon — Portugal's centre-right government is to restore diplomatic relations with the Baltic republics, whose incorporation into the Soviet Union in 1940 it has never recognised. The EC, including Portugal, agreed jointly this week to recognise Baltic independence. (Reuters)

Castro praise

Hanoi — President Castro of Cuba has praised Vietnam for sticking to the socialist path, the Vietnamese Communist party newspaper *Nhan Dan* reported. In a message congratulating Vo Van Kiet on his election as prime minister, he said the two socialist countries should strengthen ties. (Reuters)

Reformer quits

Sofia — Andrei Lukanov, a former prime minister and leading reformer in the Bulgarian Socialist party, formerly the Communist party, has left the party leadership in protest over its failure to condemn the abortive Soviet coup. His resignation is a blow to the party ahead of October general elections. (Reuters)

Emergency aid

Tokyo — Japan may offer emergency food and medical aid to Soviet Union, but only after it has a clear picture of the situation there, Ryutaro Hashimoto, the finance minister, said. Tokyo has long ruled out substantial help until Moscow returns four islands seized at the end of the second world war. (Reuters)

Mongolia shift

Ulan Bator — Mongolia, putting ever greater distance between itself and Moscow, has agreed to recognise the independence of the three Baltic republics. An extraordinary session of parliament also decided to ban senior government and media officials from belonging to a political party. (Reuters)

Pentagon victim

Washington — The Pentagon has suspended publication of its annual book, *Soviet Military Power*, because of uncertainty about the situation in the Soviet Union. The book, normally packed with pictures, graphs, charts and text on Soviet arms and strategy, is widely used as a reference work. (Reuters)

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مكتبة الامن الاصل

Clifford Longley

Religious traditions should be cherished, just like rare species

The British Jewish community has its moment in full view of the nation tomorrow, when the ceremony of installation of a new Chief Rabbi is televised live from St John's Wood Synagogue in London. The ceremony also marks the retirement of Lord Jakobovits, who in 25 years as Chief Rabbi enhanced his position to a national esteem matched only by that of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster.

His successor, Dr Jonathan Sacks, is only 43, and an English native. He represents the ascendancy of a new style of Jewish leadership as it takes over from a largely immigrant generation, that which fled to Britain to escape the rise of fascism. Naturally that generation's priorities were set by its cruel experiences, and also by deep gratitude to Britain for the shelter it was offered. Dr Sacks feels only the gratitude to his country proper to any Englishman.

The British were not particularly grateful about accepting Jewish refugees from Russia at the turn of the century, nor particularly generous at least regarding them before the last war. But apart from occasional fringe outbreaks of anti-Semitism, the British Jewish community is now so at home that it no longer needs to be told it is welcome. Anti-Jewish slights are probably no more common than anti-Catholic ones, and it is Muslims who today bear the weight of British bigotry.

Only if the British are very foolish will relations between different communities take on the angry and confrontational pattern that is emerging in America, especially in New York. Britain should aim in the opposite direction, to develop a culture of tolerance which goes beyond toleration. The whole community needs to respect and cherish the differences embedded in it as part of the stock of national wealth. Indeed, this is not far from Dr Sacks's message in his Reith Lectures last year.

Just as the ecology movement is stressing the preservation of species and the environmental movement the conservation of notable architecture and landscape, so the ancient religious should be valued as one of the general assets of civilisation, belonging to all. Rare species of plant, 20 years ago regarded as mere weeds to be poisoned, are now known to contain a wealth of chemicals and potential medicines, exploration of which has hardly begun. Great forests, 20 years ago mere fodder for sawmills and obstacles to agriculture, are now known to be essential to the survival of life itself.

In the ecology of human civilisation, religions have a role to play which is no less vital. But for this to happen, the disengagement of religion must give way to a cherishing of religion, by those who are not personally involved in its practices. In the cultivation of this positive respect for religion, the British have made a start by their regard for the Jews. It is not necessary to know precisely what makes Jews tick, nor to approve of everything about them. But there is a widespread perception that Jewish scholarship, law, worship and family life enshrine an ancient wisdom, and that mysteriously this culture has an unsurpassed record at extracting the best from the talent available. This perception makes Dr Sacks's elevation an event of national importance.

There are equal reserves of wisdom in the many varieties of Christianity present in British life, and no less in Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism and Islam. To stamp them all flat in the name of conformist liberal secularism would be as stupid as wiping out every rare species because their value is not obvious to passing fashion.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

Poor Mr Kinnock. I should have warned him about the problems direct sunlight can cause for people with freckles (PWFs), because my sister-in-law has them too. You really do just have to keep out of the sun, I am afraid. Italy was a mistake.

Nevertheless I think I speak for all non-freckled people (I deplore the use of the word "normal") when I say we are full of sympathy and would never laugh or try to make a freckled person feel ridiculous. Caring people want to understand disability, not to mock. I wish I could spend just one day as a freckled person, myself, to experience at first-hand their humiliations. What a hateful thing prejudice is! I do not have a son but if I did and he came to me and said: "Dad, I think I've got freckles," I should immediately reply: "It's not as if your mother and I hadn't noticed, and anyway good on you son!" I am modern enough to know that people with freckles are just as worthwhile as people without — just different, that's all. Anyway, it's not their fault.

All of which is by way of a preamble to saying that I do understand why Mr Kinnock has kept almost entirely out of the news and off television recently, but I think his bashfulness has been unnecessary. Yes, I did see that brief *Newsnight* appearance on his return from Italy, and yes, they did rather pop out and hit you in the face. But so what? The nation hungers to know the

Labour leader's thoughts about events in Russia, and the nation has not been satisfied. We have heard Margaret Drabble and we heard (Oh boy have we heard!) Paddy Ashdown. Now we must hear Mr Kinnock.

So I have a proposal. Politicians should be offered the same artifice as an evaluation to the presenters who interview them. Have you ever seen a television presenter with spots? Of course not: they cover them with make-up and spray their hair. Have you ever seen a television presenter stumped for something informed and interesting to say? Never: whole teams of researchers have been up all night writing his or her script. This is being rolled before the presenter's glazed eyes on a machine invisible to us viewers.

Have you ever seen an interviewer run out of questions? Hardly. He has a little earpiece in his left ear, hidden from cameras. From the control box his team is priming him with questions throughout the interview.

And have you ever heard this announcement: "The Arthur Bland Show regrets that Mr Bland couldn't be bothered to fly down to our Westminster studios to present this programme, so it's coming to you from Bolton, where he happens to be?" Perish the thought. They just tell Mr Bland against painted cardboard mock-up of the Houses of Parliament, as seen (apparently) through some windows behind him. There are no windows. He is in Bolton.

So why is the same courtesy not extended to guests on television? It is a serious question. It is true that as a guest you can have make-up if you like, but you have to ask. *Weekend World* wouldn't let me wear a white shirt, and kept buying me new suits in a desperate attempt to make me look interesting. But my guests came on in any old thing they chose. In a just world, a kindly wardrobe man would say to Mr Major: "Sorry, love, but we're not wearing that dreary suit on this programme. Here, try something flashier in maroon alpaca. You can change behind that curtain." Afterwards, the make-up lady would move his parting to the other side, as an experiment.

Nor would Neil Kinnock have to come back from Italy. There must be studios in Tuscany, and he would nip into one of these and sit in front of a poster-painted panorama of Westminster especially flown in. Into the car you don't see would go a discreet earpiece linked to Gerald Kaufman on a special line, who would offer him hints during the interview as to what it might be helpful to say. The names of those unpronounceable Soviet republics would appear, as required, spelled phonetically, on his autocue machine.

Media professionals cheat: their guests can't. Let the same rules apply to all. When politicians lose their freckles, or the presenters gain some, we shall know this has happened.

How does the hat stand? John Grigg ponders the impact of politicians on the fashions in headwear

So is it hats off for good?

Old men who never cheated, never doubted, communicated monthly, sat and stare At a red suburb ruled by Mrs Simpson, Where a young man lands hatless from the air.

The young man in question was, of course, the new king, Edward VIII, and if he had stayed on the throne his influence as a trend-setter and arbiter of fashion might have led to earlier abandonment of the hat, at any rate by men of his own generation or younger. But his abdication may have had the opposite effect: in reasserting traditional values it may, among other things, have confirmed the need for men to wear hats.

Between the wars the predominant type of male headgear was the bowler, although soft felt hats were gaining ground. In particular, the black Homburg was popularised by Anthony Eden when he was a youthful and rather dashing foreign secretary. Indeed, it came to be known by his name, and was accepted as the appropriate hat for leading politicians by some whose opinions and personal styles were very different from his.



Getting ahead: Eden in his Eden, with Butler in his bowler

There is, for instance, a comical picture of Clement Attlee wearing an "Anthony Eden" in his constituency of West Walthamstow during the 1950 election, as he shakes hands, rather self-consciously, with a cloth-capped workman. Another picture, of R.A. Butler and Harold Macmillan leaving 10 Downing Street during the Suez crisis in October 1956, may perhaps be seen as a portent. Butler is wearing a bowler, while Macmillan is hatless. Was it entirely a coincidence that when, soon after-

wards, the premiership was up for grabs, the hatless man won? At the beginning of the 1960s, a more glamorous politician than Macmillan undoubtedly helped to make formal hats unfashionable for men. According to Richard Stephenson, managing director of the long-established firm of hat-makers, James Lock & Co, the hatlessness of John F. Kennedy was a decisive influence. Although in other respects a conventional dresser (he bought his suits in Savile Row), Kennedy dispensed

with hats, and his relaxed, often dishevelled image appealed to an age turning against restraint. The 1960s was anyway a time when luxuriant hair — the longer the better — was flaunted by young men as a mark of machismo. Another factor was that men were increasingly driving to work in their own cars, where it seemed as pointless to wear a hat as to do so indoors.

Finally, there may have been a Cold War element. The hatlessness of Kennedy and all the Western politicians who copied him differentiated them in a dramatically visual way from the grey men of the Kremlin in their uniform grey felt hats. Recently, however, Mr Gorbachev's fidelity to the grey Kremlin hat has given it a friendlier symbolism.

Will hats ever return as articles of clothing *de rigueur* for Western men in their working lives? At present there is a great demand for every kind of men's headgear, in tweed, cotton or straw, that may be needed for leisure purposes. Lawyers, bank clerks, civil servants, politicians and others who go hatless to work are likely to

wear hats or caps for many of their outdoor recreations. But formal hats are still a drag on the market.

Mr Stephenson of Lock's, however, notes some stirring of interest in formal hats among customers in the 25-30 age group, which he says may be attributable to the impact of period films or television series such as *Brideshead Revisited*.

Showbiz personalities have so far been rather more hat-orientated than politicians, Elton John being perhaps the most obvious example. Among politicians there is no sign, as yet, of an Eden-equivalent for the 1990s.

Perhaps the formal hat has gone for good, except as part of the uniform of a disciplined service. At least the modern hatless multitudes are spared one inconvenience that used to be all too familiar. "There are very few moments in a man's existence", Dickens wrote in *Pickwick Papers*, "when he experiences so much ludicrous distress, or meets with so little charitable consideration, as when he is in pursuit of his own hat."

But losing one's hat momentarily in a gust of wind may one day again be seen as a small price to pay for the feeling of completeness and spiritual security that a hat can confer.

The long, hard road to freedom

With no tradition of democracy, the Russians need all the help that we can give them, writes Richard Pipes



The end of tsars: Nicholas II under guard after the 1917 revolution, a brief respite before the return of arbitrary autocracy

In nearly seven centuries of its history as a state, there were only two periods when Russia was not ruled by an autocracy. The first, known as the "Time of Troubles", occurred in the early 17th century, when the demise of the ruling dynasty resulted in social turmoil and foreign intervention. It ended in 1613 with the installation of the Romanovs. The second period followed the revolution of February 1917. It ended eight months later in communist dictatorship.

The third began last week. The government of the Soviet Union being for all practical purposes dead, the country has no central government. How this political crisis will resolve itself is a matter of supreme concern not only for her inhabitants but for the rest of the world, since Russia is no longer the marginal country it was during previous breakdowns of central authority.

Except during the decade preceding the 1917 revolution, the population of Russia and its dependencies has never participated in political decisions. These were made by the self-appointed and self-perpetuating central government, with the help of a bureaucracy and an army which owed allegiance not to the nation but to the sovereign, whether the tsar or the head of the Communist party. Still, until 1917, Russia's government interfered very little with the life of its subjects. The country was essentially an agglomeration of tens of thousands of villages, which came into contact with the authorities only about taxes and recruits. Otherwise, the population was left to its own devices.

Comparisons with Western states show that tsarist Russia was very tightly administered. The government was arbitrary, but its sphere of activity was largely confined to high politics, which did not much impinge on the life of ordinary citizens.

All this changed in 1917-18. The government remained as arbitrary as ever, but it also spread its tentacles to the remotest village: nothing escaped the reach of what Mussolini called the totalitarian regime's "compulsory organisation". Russians and the subject peoples were pulled into the life of the state, but in a purely passive role, as involuntary actors whose function was to bestow legitimacy on the government's actions. There was involvement but no participation, and Soviet citizens had no more occasion than before to acquire the habits of citizenship.

Now they have the best opportunity ever given them to construct a free society. The abortive coup has removed for a long time, possibly for ever, the reactionary party apparatus, and with it the threat of a totalitarian restoration. The new threat comes from within the democratic movement, from the incomprehension of what democracy is and how it functions.

For those who live under stable democratic governments, it is extremely difficult to understand how complex democracy is, and what attitudes and what institutions have to be developed for it to work. Americans regard democracy as a natural form of government, and tend to believe that its absence is due to either ignorance or failure of will. President Reagan, who accurately reflected the ethos of mid-America, was convinced that if one only had the chance to demonstrate to the Russian leaders the benefits of democracy and its

adjunct, capitalism, they would instantly be converted. But Russians are thwarted from translating their yearning for freedom into a democratic order by lack of understanding of some of democracy's principal attributes. They find it difficult to grasp that it is proper in a democracy to pursue politics, individually as well as collectively, for private benefit: that the function of government is not to realise ideals but to reconcile interests. Because their governments have never represented them, Russians think of private and public spheres as antithetical. They have little tolerance for the use of state institutions in pursuit of special interests, and even when professing democratic ideals they want the government to stand above the concerns of its citizens.

Secondly, accustomed to live for centuries under arbitrary authority — not only that of the state but also that of the serf owner — Russians interpret freedom as *volia*, or license, that is, the absence of restraint. To be free is to do as one pleases. They have to learn that genuine freedom is exercised within the law, and hence subject to restraints. And where such restraints are not enforced by self-discipline, freedom either collapses in chaos or yields to discipline imposed by others.

But there are also factors on the positive side of the ledger which augur well for the future of Russian democracy. No one contributed more to the breakdown of order in 1917 and the reimposition of tyranny than the intelligentsia, which was irresponsible, given to utopian fantasies, and committed, in Trotsky's words, to "overturning the world". This intelligentsia perished in the holocaust it had caused. The new

one is very different: pragmatic and willing to learn, it wants not utopia but normality.

The people at large, too, having suffered untold losses and aware how communist leaders misled them, are prepared to settle for Western philistinism. Their traditional xenophobia seems a thing of the past: the anti-Western exhortations of Solzhenitsyn and like-minded nationalists fall on deaf ears. The Russian people do not perhaps quite realise the drawbacks of democracy and the free market, but they certainly have no appetite for any form of dictatorship.

The months and years ahead will be very difficult at best. With the collapse of the Communist party, the 15 republics of what was the Soviet Union are suddenly left without the steel grip that has kept them intact for 70 years. Virtually all state and economic institutions will have

to be rebuilt from scratch because the old are useless rubble. In this trying time, the people of the republics require generous emergency aid from the industrial democracies: not a new Marshall Plan (which in their present condition they could not absorb), but food, fuel and medicines to tide them over while the new institutions are forged and put in place.

Such assistance should by-pass the central structures, which no longer have any authority, and go directly to the republics and their regions. And it should be generous: 1 per cent of the defence budget of the NATO countries does not seem excessive. For if the past is any guide, should anarchy once again triumph, it will not be long before a new despotism arises.

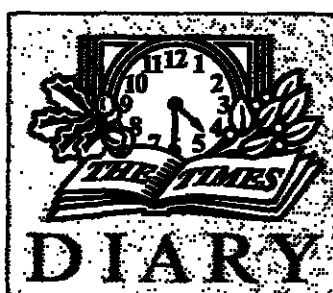
Richard Pipes is *Baird Professor of History at Harvard*, and author of *The Russian Revolution* (Collins Harvill, £20).

Consoling the consul

WILL the good people of Estonia raise the delicate matter of their London embassy with Douglas Hogg when he arrives in the Baltic state next week? Last year, upon an application from the Foreign Office, the High Court froze £26 million of Estonian money from the sale of the building in Kensington's Queen's Gate. The Estonian consulate in New York, which maintained the building, had decided to sell it in 1989. But treasury counsel held that the last recorded owners, the Estonian National Bank, had ceased to exist in 1940. Therefore, the British government argued, the money did not rightfully belong to the Estonians unless and until the Baltic state cast off the Soviet yoke.

The argument was clearly one of convenience, designed to avoid upsetting the Kremlin, and stemmed from Britain's contorted position over the Baltics. "Of course the Foreign Office was politically motivated. While Britain never recognised Stalin's annexation, neither did it acknowledge the three Baltic states," says Erik Kross, Estonia's representative in London. America, on the other hand, has always afforded Baltic diplomats full status — hence the management of London affairs from New York.

With Estonian independence now established, its officials are planning to go back to the High Court in an attempt to release the money. Magnanimously they harbour no ill-will. "We anticipate friendly relations with Britain," says Ernst Jackson, the consul-general in New York, looking forward to his first return to Estonia since being posted to the San Francisco consulate in 1929.

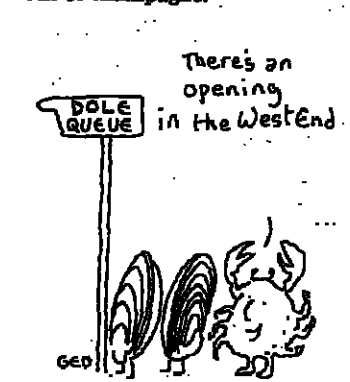


Hampstead residents are hoping that a loophole in planning law could, even at the eleventh hour, save their high street from the fast food chain McDonald's. After a ten year battle, McDonald's is on the point of exchanging contracts on a site which was formerly a burger bar, so avoiding the need for fresh planning consent. But now Camden council is re-examining whether a new application is required, on the grounds that the premises to a secondhand bookshop, it has emerged, was never approved, an oversight which negates the original consent and takes McDonald's back to square one, according to objectors. The "Burger Off" campaigners are still a long way from victory, but this weekend the hope of Hampstead matching *Martha's Vineyard* as only the second place in the world to have halted the march of the Big Mac was still alive.

First prize

Tomorrow heralds the start of the oyster season, with the arrival of a month with an "O", and with it the crowning of a new oyster-opening champion. Twelve oyster men, as they are known in the business, drawn from the kitchens of London's top seafood restaurants, will

compete at Hay's Galleria for the prize, awarded to the quickest opener of 20 oysters. The favourites include the oyster men of Wheeler's, Overton's and Scott's, but the competition is said to be wide open. "The boys haven't opened an oyster since April, so they're a bit out of practice," says Carlo Paganini, Wheeler's general manager, who is acting as a judge. Opening an oyster properly is an art, says Paganini. "There is tremendous skill involved in keeping the juice in, the bits of shell out, and not damaging the flesh — all at high speed." Connoisseurs estimate it will take roughly two minutes to open all the oysters, before cracking open another delicacy: a magnum of champagne.



Old stager

REACHING the grand age of 100 is no excuse for retirement, at least not for Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies. Oblivious to the government's debate on whether to make the uniform retirement age 60 or 65, the actress, who celebrated her centenary in January, starts work today on her latest film. She is to play a dowager duchess in an episode of *Sherlock Holmes*. Not that a spot of filming is anything out of the ordinary for Miss Ffrangcon-Davies. "She has not

stopped working in something like 80 years," says her agent, Larry Dalzell, although he concedes this is her first part as a centenarian.

As a former ambassador to China, George Bush has no doubt been offering a few friendly tips to John Major about his Peking trip on Monday. He will, for example, have warned the prime minister that Chinese walls have ears.

In his memoirs, Bush recalls staying in a Chinese government guesthouse. His wife Barbara decided to write a letter home but found that the postage stamps so thoughtfully provided, had no gum on the back. "Everything's here but the glue," she complained. Only her husband and one American aide were present at the time. The next day, a bottle of glue was neatly in place on the desk.

Mailshock

THE marketing world is alive with stories of a rather too direct piece of direct mailing. The tale, which is currently the talk of agencyland, says that a mailshot to potential customers was sabotaged by a disgruntled computer operator. Instead of keying in the names of the intended targets, the operator addressed a sizeable number as "Dear rich fat bastard".

Response rates, it is said, suffered not one bit, with many recipients apparently appreciating the joke. However, American Express, the company with which the story is most frequently associated, denies that it has ever been the victim of such a prank.

"The company has heard about this, but it's not us," says a spokeswoman. But Amex has heard of this happening to at least two other companies — although it is too discreet to reveal which. So it just an urban myth, or has anyone actually received one of these sharply-worded mailings?

هكذا انت الاصل

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MAJOR'S GLOBE-TROTTING

Mr. Major goes to Moscow as a repre-

The complex federalist design being woven so uncertainly in Brussels is not compatible with those interests. That is why the details of economic and political union matter so much. Here the real John Major, his status enhanced by his summer travels, has yet to move his international mettle.

PROPERTY NOT PEOPLE

a rough investigation of each child. --

ARDOURS OF ARCADIA

Official accident figures show that farms are the second most risky place to work after building sites. Out in the woods and fields, brambles scratch (threatening hepatitis), ticks bite (ditto arthritis), bracken-fern spores float around waiting to be inhaled (lung cancer) and adders swarm about hoping to lurch on a human ankle. Or so Profes-

The professor's reference to a "complex sensing system" suggests another answer. Computers with 3-D video head-gear can now manufacture a fantasy world of "virtual reality". Rather than leaving the car-park to hazard the real thing, users could lie back and think of England, as they want it to be, looking like a Constable, smelling of roses, the undergrowth dog-eared, desnaked and dethorned. Flip-flop open-toed sandals are the main things not to wear in the real countryside, Professor Brown said yesterday when he, briefly turned serious. In the Garden of Eden promised by virtual reality, flip-flops are just about all they will need. The countryside would then be free for those who love it just as it is, dangerous only to those who change the first.

The quest for new harmonies across Eastern Europe

This year's harvest in the Soviet Union is reported as only moderately good. There is, therefore, the strongest case for allocating the present surplus food stocks of the European Community for immediate short-term aid to the Soviet Union generally. Shortages and hun-

Both the Lithuanian president, Vitas Landsbergis, and senior Russian MPs have emphasised to me the urgency of food aid before the coming winter, especially animal feedstuffs.

I am sure the EC policy of laying emphasis on technical assistance for the human skills required to run a market economy is also correct and that trade import credits are required. The priority now is to implement these through the

A lively interchange of phrases from a phrase book took place and for nine hours they enjoyed the warmth of the Russians' stove. This simple act of friendship and generous hospitality has made a lasting impression. Is there a message here for the affluent West?

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET BROWN,
Catfield House, Catfield,
Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.
August 22

Brief encounters with 21st century

From Mr Benjamin Finn
Sir, In addition to abbreviating 2000 as 00 we will soon presumably start pronouncing years like 2001 not as "two thousand and one" — or, frequently, "the year two thousand and one" — but as "twenty-oh-one", by analogy with 1901. Somehow I can't see the other pronunciation, "twenty hundred and one", catching on very quickly.
Yours faithfully,

Within limits, gambling is an acceptable form of entertainment, but the emphasis must continue to be on entertainment. Serious prob-

Freedom of Tibet

While in Peking Mr Major will stand shoulder to shoulder with Chinese leaders to witness a massive military parade in Tiananmen Square, where hundreds of Chinese students were massacred. The dramatic changes in the Soviet Union and Britain's recognition of the independence of the Baltic states give Tibetans much hope for a better future. Mr Major recognised the

Since China's occupation, more than 1.2 million — one fifth of Tibet's population — have died as the direct result of the invasion. More than 6,000 monasteries, the centre of Tibet's culture and religion, have been destroyed.

We Tibetans demand nothing more than the restoration of our independence and the right to live as Tibetans in our own land.

Banks and business

The figures you published today from the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, showing one in 50 companies going into liquidation in the past year, are depressing but useless to the entrepreneur upon whom, it is argued, the long-term health of our economy

August 28.

From Mr Tony Fitzpatrick
Sir, I think I should prefer to use
"MM".
Yours sincerely,
TONY FITZPATRICK.
39 Hathaway Drive, Warwick.
August 28.

Pen-pushers all

From Mr Michael Grosvenor Myer Sir, "Weekend birthdays" (August 24) lists, *inter alia*, the birthdays of "Miss Antonia Byatt, writer; Mr Martin Amis, author; Mr Brian Moore, novelist".

What, if any, is the basis of these distinctions of nomenclature?

Yours curiously,
MICHAEL GROSVENOR MYER,
34 West End,
Haddenham, Cambridge.

Humberstone's future

The commission and the Department of the Environment may have encouraged this view, but it is completely at odds with the response the commission received to its proposal to split the county: 14,000 letters, of which 65 per cent were in favour of the retention of

Role reversal

catalogue, addressed correctly, rank and all, in which (among other attractions) I was invited to increase the size of my bust (in six weeks), relieve my pre-menstrual tension and double the life of my perm. I remain however, Sir, your male, heterosexual and balding servant,
PETER KIDM,
69 New Brighton Road,
Emsworth, Hampshire.
August 27.

14,000 letters, of which 65 per cent

On a separate issue, Douglas Broom suggests that a study by Bristol University's School of Advanced Urban Studies found that "the nine district councils in Humberstone could run the county's functions". This is a remarkably economical summary of the report.

Pot luck

From Mr Gordon Fergusson
Sir, Mrs Sheila Hart (August 28) is
not entirely correct about all cham-
ber pots now being used for flowers.
I use mine as a tee-pot (sic) for my
accumulation of golf tees.
Yours etc,
GORDON FERGUSSON,
Sandy Brow,
Tarporey, Cheshire.
August 28.

As I see it, the study's essential conclusion was "the current con-

figuration of districts in Humber-side provides only a weak basis for arguing for the transfer of county functions to districts as they now stand".

Yours faithfully,
J. A. PARKES,
Chief Executive,
Humber-side County Council,
County Hall, Beverley,
North Humber-side.
August 23.

Rural curbs

From Professor Victor I. C. Middleton

Sir, In your leading article, "Forever lost" (August 27), you endorse too readily the simplistic CPRE viewpoint that all development in "countryside" is bad. You seek to associate in readers' minds emotive words such as majestic common land, hills, woods and wilderness with a "freedom which is one of the joys of Britain"

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number -- (071 782 5046).

Your one-sided view does no service to the nationally vital wealth-creating services based on modern leisure, elements of which can be used to support and not destroy the countryside.

Yours etc.,
VICTOR MIDDLETON
(Chairman, The Tourism Society),
Westcroft, West End Grove,
Farnham, Surrey.

True to themselves

I should be more than happy with a ready supply of tomatoes that taste like tomatoes and apples that taste like apples.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCES BISSELL,
2 Carlingford Road, NW3.
August 30.

Weekend Money letters, page 30

Pleasures in close harmony

A theatrical gem of the Victorian age is reborn in Kent, and brings back memories of three generations of an eccentric family and their home, Sally Baker reports



A glass at the opera

On summer nights in recent weeks Victorian ghosts could be seen leading groups of people in and out of an astonishing house in Kent. They stood silently on the forecourt to witness the sinking in 1915 of HMS Hythe, progressed to the private theatre for an 1851 debate in Parliament and a 1941 concert party, moved through the house to hear anti-Semitic prejudice and the views of second world war evacuee children, and returned to the theatre via a glass of wine on the terrace to applaud the 1894 mayor of Tunbridge Wells announcing his plans for England's first Horseless Carriage Exhibition.

The ghosts and period players were members of the 100-strong amateur cast of a "community ballad opera", *Salomons' Dream*, a fittingly unconventional way to tell the story of three generations of the brilliant and eccentric Salomons family, who built and lived in Broomhill House, at Southborough near Tunbridge Wells. *Salomons' Dream* was just part of the inaugural season of a visionary project to reawaken what Jonathan Miller called "this sleeping beauty" of a venue. The dream was born three years ago when Kim Begley, an operatic tenor who lives nearby, fell in love with the theatre, envisaging in it an international summer school for young opera singers. He rounded up influential friends and colleagues, including the conductor Nicholas Cleobury (who is now the trust's music director), formed the Broomhill Trust, and opened negotiations with the current owners, the South-East Thames Regional Health Authority. As a result, a lease is about

to be signed giving the Broomhill Trust exclusive use of the theatre in July and August for 20 years, in return for refurbishing it.

An Edwardian fête in July officially opened the inaugural season, which apart from *Salomons' Dream* included a theatrical evening with Prunella Scales and Timothy West, celebrity recitals by the singers Olaf Bar and Della Jones, Mozart concerts and chamber music evenings. But this is just a taster; the real activity gets going next summer, when Jonathan Miller is to direct the Strauss opera *Ariadne auf Naxos*. *Ariadne auf Naxos* will form part of the 1992 summer school course. "We'll audition for 25 singers, a double cast, and use it as a working rehearsal period supplemented by master classes, coaching sessions, and rehearsals for the production at the end of next August," says Catherine Lee, the trust administrator.

Initial funds have come from 260 founder members, paying £200 a year each for the privilege, who include Dames Janet Baker and Joan Sutherland, Sir Bernard Haitink, the conductor Richard Bonyngne, and Sir George and Lady Christie of Glyndebourne. In addition 400 Friends of Broomhill Opera (at £25 a year each) are rewarded by priority bookings and special events with guest speakers. For £750 a year for a minimum of four years companies can become corporate subscribers, and can also sponsor scholarships for young singers.

The inaugural season has been sponsored by Swiss Life, the Woolwich building society, KCC Arts and Libraries department, Kimberly-Clark, TVS Trust and South East Arts. "We've got to be

very clever about channelling sponsors in the right direction," Miss Lee says. "We've got three things to fund now: we've got to find £300,000 for the production of *Ariadne auf Naxos*, £200,000 to refurbish the theatre, making a proper backstage area with fire exits and dressing rooms, and opening up the orchestra pit; and we want about £35,000 for next year's community opera."

Mr Begley dashed back to Broomhill to check on his dream's progress, straight from his own auditions in Bayreuth, where he had also been busy sounding out singers for next summer's season. "It's an extraordinarily suitable platform for young performers that was just lying here waiting to be discovered," he says. "It has

brilliant acoustics, a beautiful setting and just cries out for innovation." Innovation is no stranger at Broomhill. The house was built by Alderman David Salomons, a Jewish banker, who became the first Jewish lord mayor of London, and then the first Jewish MP.

He was succeeded by his nephew, Sir David Lionel Salomons, a pioneer electrician and motoring enthusiast who became vice-president of the Institute of Electrical Engineers. He added an enormous power room and filled the house with the wonders of electricity, from lighting (signs in some rooms assure servants that the switches do not require a

lighted flame, and will not hurt them) to a lift that brought his clothes from a wardrobe. In 1896 he completed his supreme plaything, a "Grand Theatre of Science" attached to the house, where he could present experiments. It has a high proscenium, deep stage, near perfect acoustics and seating for 300, yet it has never been used as a performance venue. Sir David's only son was drowned on HMS Hythe in 1915, and Sir David died in 1925. His daughter donated Broomhill in 1937 to Kent county council, which used it as a convalescent home. In 1971 it took on its present role as a conference and training centre and the theatre has lain virtually unused and unaltered since it was completed.



Very English enjoyment: visitors to Broomhill House, which Jonathan Miller called "this sleeping beauty"

Farmer's Diary: Paul Heiney

A shocking experience

IF you are any good at the obscure type of question they dish out on *Round Britain Quiz*, try this one. When does corn become a shock, and how many shocks to a shock, and why would you be shocked when you found out?

You will have gathered that our harvest continues. In my naivety, I had thought that once I had persuaded the binder to do sufficient circuits of the field that would be it. But many mysteries have needed to be unravelled before I can fling my straw hat in the air and declare the job done. The growing mountains of corn are nothing compared with the hoard of wisdom, and buns, that our harvest has yielded.

Let us start with the "shock" called a sheaf everywhere but in Suffolk. It would be wrong, for example, to view it merely as an oversized bunch of flowers. If it has been properly made, the base will have a slant to it so that if you try and prop it upright, it will automatically assume a lean. But how do you know which way the slant has been cut? The moment you pick one up it is sure to become a formless tangle of spiky corn. The answer, my old friends tell me, is to look for the knot; for the relationship between the slant and the position of the knot on the band is always the same. Are you still with me?

If so, we can go on to the next stage, where we pick up the shocks and make them into stooks. This is the picturesque, and lush, bit. A field littered with shocks spat out randomly by the binder is transformed into a living Constable harvest scene. In principle, you pick up two shocks and lean them against each other, pick up another two and lean them against the first two and carry on till you have done half a dozen. The problem arises when you consider the slant on the base of the shock; for while one school of thought argues that all shocks should be stooked with the knots facing outwards, others will put forward philosophical arguments in favour of stooking them with knots inwards. It is easy to discuss this at

sufficient length to miss the entire harvest.

Then comes the big decision: which way the stooks should lie. Some will insist a north/south configuration is best so as to get the sun on both sides. Others say east/west is more likely to catch a good-drying breeze. Incidentally, the erecting of these stooks is called shocking, which answers my original question.

Our barley was quickly ripe, and so we moved hastily on to the next stage, which is carting it home and building a cornstack. If you were shocked by the erecting of the stooks, be prepared to be bowled over by the intricacies of this apparently simple task. It is vital, the old boys warn me, that when building the load on the cart you leave the centre hollow so the shocks don't fall off when the cart goes over bumps. However, when building the stack it is vital to do the exact opposite and keep the middle higher so that any rain will run down the straws rather than up them.

But we have had happy days pitching sheaves high into the air to be caught by my old friend who builds the load on the wagon. "Done this often?" I cheekily asked. He paused. "I reckon that must be at least 60 harvests I've worked on." He paused again. "And if you don't pitch them shocks as I want 'em you won't be seeing me on the 61st," and he broke into a great roaring laugh. He was happy to be harvesting the old way. An old farmhand who has been forced to lay up his pickaxe is a kind of exile. "There's a knack to every job, bar basketmaking," he declared. "We said nothing, letting it sink in. Eventually, one of us had to ask what he meant. 'Well, basket-making: you can see through that, can't you?' He laughed till he nearly fell off his load.

The days have been long and hot, but in the evening I have sat contented, and watched the dazzling harvest moon ride high in the sky. It has been our first harvest, and we have won it. It has been a thoroughly shocking experience.



Feather report

Open your eyes to the essential accessories

THIS weekend provides a thousand opportunities for the world's most boring conversation. These can be found at the British Birdwatching Fair at Rutland Water, near Oakham, Leicestershire, today and tomorrow. It is sponsored by an optical company called "in focus" and this provides the clue about the conversation. It goes like this: "The thing about tens because... image size... performance in poor light... so I upgraded to Leitz... and

brought in 8,000 visitors and raised £10,000 for conservation in the Coto Donana in Spain.

The range of delights a birder can spend money on is amazing. Apart from glass, there are the clothes, especially the boots; there are magazines, books, videos, photographs, recordings, recording equipment, wild bird food, paintings, sculpture, telephone information services, bird stamps and, of course, you can blow thousands on travel.

This was shortly before buying them. The fact that I could not afford them was an irrelevant detail.

You do not pay for the number of magnifications you get, but for the quality of the image. If you use something with 20 magnifications, your hand-shake will also be magnified 20 times. If your super-power bins are heavy - and they always are at that size - you won't get a steady or a helpful image at all. Truly enormous binoculars are only useful for hanging rascals on admission badges on. You need clarity, not power.

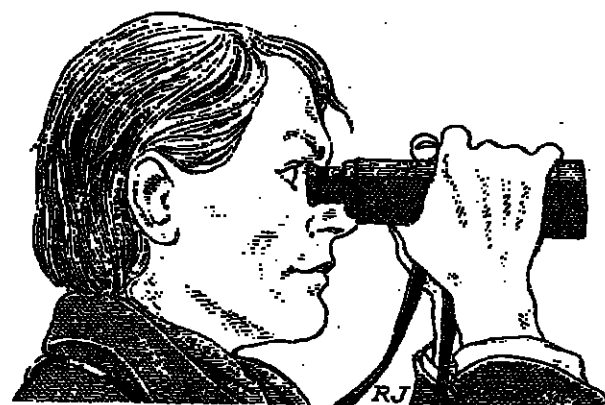
TO HAVE a lovely pair of binoculars is great, but the real point is to possess a pair, any pair. Binoculars are one of the few pieces of hardware that can change the world for you. The quality is no more than a luxury, but binoculars themselves are a necessity. If you buy a pair for a few pounds and start to use them, the world will never be the same again.

Binoculars open your eyes to birds and thus to conservation. No one can think of birding without thinking of conservation: the British Birdwatching Fair aims to raise £15,000 for the conservation of the Danube delta. This is said to be Europe's greatest wetland; it holds Dalmatian pelican, pygmy cormorant, white-headed duck and up to 20,000 red-breasted geese. These are birds that look good through any kind of binoculars: the fair offers a way to enjoy them and also a way to secure their homeland. That, in racing terms, is a Win Double.

SIMON BARNES

British Birdwatching Fair, Rutland Water, near Oakham, Leicestershire. Today and tomorrow, 10am-5.30pm. £5, children free.

What's about: Birders - Watch out for migrants on east and south coasts, including red-backed shrike, wheatear and tawny pipit. Twitters - Short-toed lark on the Isles of Scilly, aquatic warbler at Marazion, Cornwall, and green warbler on Fildale. Details from Birdline (0898 700222).



then with scopes, I decided... and you can dispense with tripod... but when it comes to sea-watching you need... the one thing I can't stand is having to walk backwards because your binoculars won't focus close enough.

This is the great optical glass conversation. It is not so much endless as cyclical. What do you use? In public places, people steal covert glances at your binoculars to see how serious you are. The worst thing is when people start trying out each other's equipment. I don't know what follows, because I always leave at this point.

You can spend a fortune on birding if you put your mind to it. Many of us have. Birding, in fact, is booming, and I am delighted to report that there will be 100 stalls and loads of lectures and demonstrations at the fair, and it all sounds great, apart from the optical glass conversations. Last year's fair

Then there are the delights of computing. Keen computing people have put together software packages for keeping your records, with such titles as "The Birdwatcher's Electronic Logbook". Birding by computer is a concept remote from my personal joys, but it goes to show that birds can appeal to all sorts and conditions of mankind. There are thousands of bits of equipment to give delight. Binoculars, however, have to come first. You can spend more than £600 on a pair if you want; you can also buy a pair for no more than a few quid. It is a vital to ask someone for some serious technical advice before spending your money, so here is mine. Get any pair. Use them all the time. Take them wherever you go.

Expensive binoculars are better than cheap ones, and the stuff at the top of the range provides a quality so startling that the first time I tried a pair I shouted aloud with amazement.

Country events

THIS WEEKEND

□ Holme Valley torchlit procession: Flats, brass bands, vintage cars, shire horses, hounds and fireworks. Bill Owen, from *The Last of the Summer Wine*, will be there. Near Holmfirth, Huddersfield, West Yorks. Today from 8pm.

□ The Longest Prom: The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra plays music by Puccini, Schubert, Strauss, Wood and Elgar. Fireworks and laser show. Take picnic, rug, umbrella. Longleat, near Warminster, Wilt. Tonight. Gates open 6pm, concert 7.30pm. £9.50 (credit card booking, 071-379 4444).

□ Falcons in Essex: Flying displays, training techniques, and a talk about the different breeds their history and conservation. Audley End House, near Saffron Walden, Essex (0799 22399). Tomorrow from 2pm. £4, children £2.

□ Shakespeare at Scotney: Theatre-Set-Up's open-air production of *Measure for Measure* set beside the ruins of the 14th century moated castle. Take a rug and picnic. Scotney Castle garden, Lambethurst, Kent. Today 2pm and 7.30pm. Seats £5.50, grass £4. (Credit card booking advisable, 0892 390651).

□ Kings at Corfe: Hundreds of costumed local people take part in a spectacular pageant in the illuminated ruins of the former royal castle. Corfe Castle, Wareham, Dorset (0929 480921). Today until Sept 7, no performance tomorrow. Gates open 6.15pm, pageant from 7.15pm. Tickets in advance, £7.50, children £5; on the night, £9, child £6 (book on 0929 480910).

NEXT WEEK

□ Hampton medieval crafts: Nearly 200 craftsmen display and demonstrate, plus court dancers, jesters, jugglers and combat knights. Hampton Court Palace, Hampton, Surrey. Fri-Sun 10am-6pm. £5, children £1.

□ Royston sound: Piano quartets played by David Southerns and the Sensky Trio; music by Dvorak, Purcell, Huencs and Faure. Wimpole Hall, Arrington, Royston, Herts. Fri 8pm. £4 (book on 0223 307257).

JUDY FROSHAUG

THE SUNDAY TIMES WORLD EXCLUSIVE



RAISA

An intimate account of her life, in her own words.

TOMORROW

Up Honeysuckle Junction



Running on time: Laurence Hutchins in his garden, with one of the scale-model trains of the Hampstead Clockwork and Steam Light Railway Company

This is the Night Mail crossing the Border. Bringing the cheque and the postal order...

In a spite of Beeching, in spite of Thatcher, the romance of the iron road is still in full steam in Hampstead. Perhaps when Auden wrote "Crossing the Border" in *Night Mail* he did not have in mind a border planted with roses of Sharon, and overhung by twining honeysuckle. But the principle is still the same. The honeysuckle is a bit of a hazard, in fact, because if a strand comes trailing across the line, it can upset a locomotive in no time, leaving it on its back in the flowerbed. A nasty pile-up, and it is all too easy to burn one's fingers picking up the sizzling engine, and putting it back on the rails again. But Laurence Hutchins is not afraid of burning his fingers. On the contrary, he sees the risk as one of the attractions that have induced him to build an O-gauge railway in his garden, within 300 yards of Hampstead Heath.

"There are two kinds of railway modellers," he says. "There are the miniaturists, who strive to

George Hill discovers the very model of a well run railway running through the flowerbeds of a suburban garden in Hampstead

produce a model which is so true to life that it would be impossible to say from a photograph whether it is real or a model. And there are people like me. For us, the main thing is that we actually enjoy driving an engine."

Last month he held a champagne reception in the garden, to mark the formal inauguration of the Hampstead Clockwork and Steam Light Railway Company. Unlike British Rail's North London Line, which groans on its ignominious course half a mile south of the house, the HCSLR is a model of a well-run railway.

Its services run on 120ft of track, winding along the pergola and under the apple tree, with a truss girder bridge springing in a single span across the garden path. It has brought the sounds of the railway to a quiet street. Neighbours on their way to walk the dog on the heath still look up, startled, when a waspish buzzing among the branches overhead signals the

passage of Nero, an 0-4-0 quarry engine, or Tallyn, a six-wheeled steam 0-4-2 saddle tank engine, drawing three coaches and guard's van.

Mr Hutchins makes television commercials, an occupation which needs to be balanced by a hobby with a strong grounding in reality. The wear and tear of the great outdoors constantly threatens the smooth running of a garden railway. Struts rot, rain floods the track, cats use the bridges as a thoroughfare. Without disciplined and vigilant attention to maintenance, the line could quickly deteriorate to a standard of reliability no better than that of British Rail.

There may be other railways like the HCSLR pounding through the undergrowth of the London suburbs. Mr Hutchins is a member of the Sixteen Millimetre Modellers' Association, whose members work in the self-con-

tained world of the scale of 16 millimetres to the foot. "We have 1,500 members, and many of these have an interest in laying out a track in their gardens," says Mr Edward Hodson, the membership secretary of the association. "But I should think a line comparable to the one Mr Hutchins has built is quite rare in inner London."

The railway bug bit Mr Hutchins early, as it almost always does. At the age of eight, he was already a train spotter. When he grew out of this, he began collecting model trains, and put together a considerable collection of engines from the famous workshops of Bassett-Lowke. Eventually, speculators moved into the market and forced prices up to levels which he felt did not make sense. He gave up collecting, and began to map out the route for the HCSLR.

Mr Hutchins is a hands-on railways enthusiast, a shareholder of the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway in Kent. He

and his wife make pilgrimages to investigate the railways of India, or to ride on the Orient Express.

Mr Hutchins is ambitious to extend his network, through a tunnel and then round the inside perimeter of the summerhouse, which has become a railway workshop during the process of construction. When Mrs Hutchins, whom he refers to as "the Domestic Authority" — found him eyeing the summerhouse in the same way as Isambard Kingdom Brunel used to ogle the West Country, she exacted strict conditions regarding planning gain. The extension would only be acceptable, she said, if the summerhouse were fully returned to its former use. These conditions have been accepted, and the project is soon to go ahead.

It would not be surprising if Mr Hutchins has plans at the back of his mind to extend his network from the pergola to the branches of the trees just above. Then he would need only to throw a high-level bridge across South Heath Road, and he could send Nero and Tallyn pounding from tree to tree right round the heath.

Holding up the dreaming spires

For more than 160 years, an Oxford firm has helped to ensure that some of Britain's most historic buildings remain standing

Ten years ago trumpeters played a fanfare and the choristers of Magdalen College, Oxford, sang a specially composed ode to mark the completion of the restoration of the college's famous 15th century tower, which guards the eastern entrance to the old city.

Undergraduates in the late 1970s came and went without ever seeing the tower, which for six years was encased in scaffolding. Few of today's sightseers are aware that the whole of the top section of the tower is a modern replacement; if they were told, they might wonder where in the late 20th century craftsmen could be found whose skills matched those of the medieval stonemasons.

The answer lies a couple of miles away on a modern industrial estate where Symm and Company, and its associate AFS Masonry, have their headquarters. For more than 160 years the company has been training masons, bricklayers, carpenters, joiners and painters to remarkably high standards and applying their skills to the restoration of historic buildings all over Britain.

The firm was founded in 1827 in the heart of the city. Malcolm Artell, its present joint chairman, believes the yard was the model for that depicted by Thomas Hardy in *Jude the Obscure*.

Not much seems to have changed. The soft limestone continues to crumble under the combined onslaught of damp, frost and pollution, and over the years every college in the university has called for Symm's services.

Although Oxford has supplied its bread and butter, Symm has by no means confined itself to the city. It was, for example, responsible for much of the restoration work that accompanied the cleaning of the Palace of Westminster

from 1981 onwards, and for repairing and repointing the facade of Blenheim Palace.

Stonemasonry is perhaps the most eye-catching of its activities, but it is matched by the equally exacting standards applied to woodwork and other interior refurbishments.

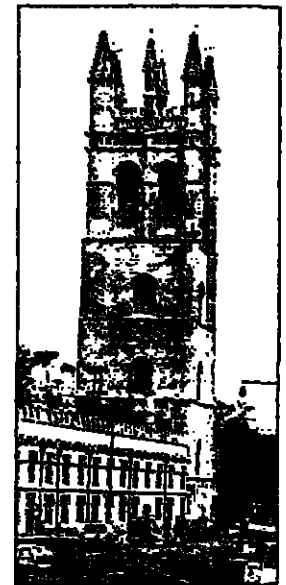
Symm has also expanded its operations to the United States, where it has received commissions in Virginia, Florida, Texas and New York, mostly for replicas of historic buildings.

Although Mr Artell would certainly not claim that his firm's work is unique, he believes that few others pay the same attention to detail. "A lot of historic buildings have suffered from builders who have done unspeakable things," he says.

But in many ways things seem to be improving. John Besley, who is in charge of the company's training programme, thinks the industry is at last pulling out of the post-war decline when standards dropped disastrously. "The cheapest of the cheap is seen to have been a failure and is no longer acceptable," he says.

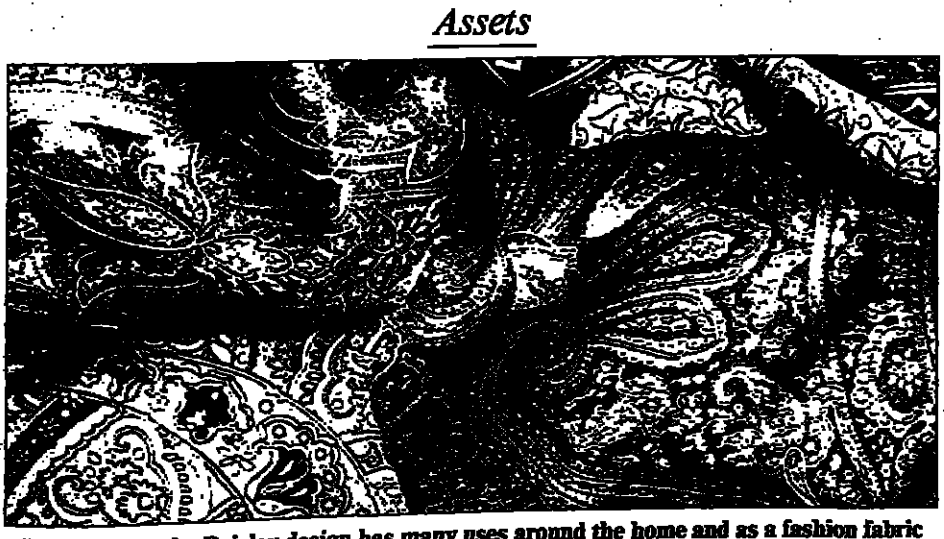
Apprentices are now easier to recruit, thanks to higher wages and the prospect of proper training courses organised by, for example, the Oxford College of Further Education and the Construction Industry Training Board. Symm has about 20 apprentices employed at the works or attending courses, and many of them have family histories in building trades going back for generations.

The work of a such a company may have only limited relevance to contemporary building and architecture. But it is encouraging to know that, in one of the great historic cities of England, the old skills survive and thrive.



Magdalen College tower

JOHN YOUNG



Wrapped up: the Paisley design has many uses around the home and as a fashion fabric

Paisley refuses to fade

PAISLEY is a style that just will not fade away; its hold over home furnishings, fabrics and fashion remains as firm as ever, which seems appropriate for a motif that came to represent the renewal of life.

The distinctive teardrop design, beloved of Kashmiri princes, derives from the growing shoot of the date palm. Since palms provided food, wine, wood and thatch, the pine motif came to symbolise life itself. Paisley flourished in the textiles, embroideries, tiles and carvings of early Indian and European decorative arts, before classical motifs from Greece and Rome began to influence designs.

This autumn, the familiar swirling pattern bedecks all kinds of goods, from bags and umbrellas to stationery and bedspreads.

Paisley became popular in the mid-18th century, when hand-made shawls from Kashmir reached Britain, courtesy

of the British East India Company. Because the shawls took up to three years to complete, demand soon outstripped supply. Entrepreneurs seized the opportunity to copy the shawls, and textile manufacturers in Paris, Lyons, Vienna, Edinburgh, Norwich and the Scottish town of Paisley competed for the lucrative business.

In the 1990s, Liberty has introduced a new red and green paisley print, called Hockaday, which could be used for accessories in every room in the house. Harvey Nichols' new Etro boutique stocks paisley-covered luggage, for £600-£1,200, cushions for £60-£80, boxes for £200, ties for £20-£25, wool shawls for £200 and cashmere shawls for £400.

Bedrooms can be brightened with paisley quilt covers, from £23.50, and pillowcases, from £5.65, at selected House of Fraser stores.

Curtains can be made of

Sanderson's paisley Hurlingham fabric, at £12.25 per metre from London's Army & Navy Stores. Debenhams stocks men's paisley dressing gowns at £24.99 and silk boxer shorts at £16.99.

For the living room, Grand Paisley, a Laura Ashley fabric, is available in navy cotton, £12.45 per metre, with a matching wallpaper border, £4.45 per roll.

A paisley range of Scottish-made stationery is available from the National Trust for Scotland's mail order catalogue (031-226 5922).

Nationwide branches of Tie Rack sell a wide choice of wool wraps, £25, silk scarves, and silk ties, from £9.99 each, boxer shorts, from £6.99, and bow ties, from £8.99.

For original paisley textiles, explore Harrods' Age of Elegance department, where antique throws, dating from 1870, cost about £1,950.

NICOLE SWENGLEY

Events in town

- London Historic Society members dress as picnickers of the early 17th century and give a musical recital. *Chiswick House, Burlington Lane, London W4. Today from 11am. Garden admission free. House adult £2, children £1. Details (081-995 0508).*
- Brent show and carnival: Arena events, sports, stalls, shire horses, music, children's entertainment. *Roundwood Park, Longstone Avenue, London NW10. Today, tomorrow, noon-7pm. £2.50, child £1.50.*
- Taxi Driver of the Year: Annual charity fund raising competition in which cabbies take part in a road run and manoeuvres. Also children's entertainments and stalls. *Battersea Park, London SW11. Tomorrow, 10am-6pm.*
- Thames Barge Sailing Club opens open opportunity to look over these beautiful working boats, once a common sight on the Thames. *St Katherine's Yacht Haven, London E1. Today, tomorrow, 10.30am-5pm. Free.*
- Huddersfield canals festival: Gathering of canal boats, plus waterside entertainments. *Aspley Basin and Huddersfield Polytechnic, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. Today, tomorrow from noon. Free.*
- City of Nottingham Show: Flower and vegetable show, arena events, children's entertainment and trade stands. *Wollaton Park, Nottingham. Tomorrow 10am-6pm. £2.50, children £1.50.*

JUDY FROSHAUG

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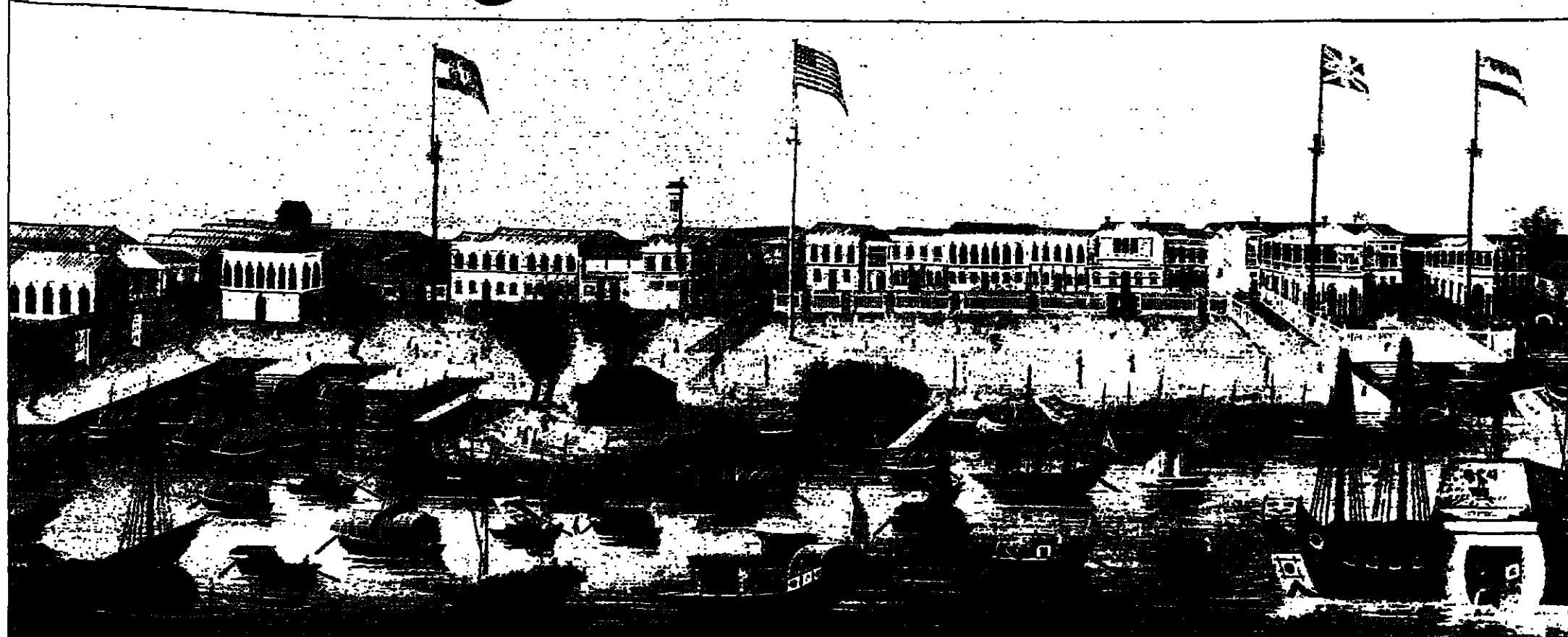
SWISS COTTAGE PALMERS GREEN S. KENSINGTON BRIGHTON	071 722 7810 081 886 7514 071 589 2303 0273 208291	BROMLEY SUTTON WEYBRIDGE COLCHESTER	081 464 2253 081 643 3242 0932 859390 0206 42007	04024 70299 0603 616839 0734 583052 0277 838588 0332 439113	NORWICH READING ST ALBANS DERBY	0603 616839 0734 583052 0277 838588 0332 439113	MARCHESTER BRISTOL KINGSTON	0742 722601 061 839 4339 0272 272523 061 546 5040
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WEEKEND TIMES

Next weekend sees the launch of Weekend Times, a 16-page broadsheet colour section offering the best in weekend activities, from gardening to travel ideas, entertainment, town and country events, places to go and reasons not to go far. Weekend, which starts with a look at what makes the Japanese tick as the Japan exhibition opens, perfectly complements the rest of Saturday's Times: the latest news and sport, family finance and of course the award-winning Saturday Review

Weekend Times, free with The Times next Saturday

Cracking the old China market



China past, an oil by a Chinese artist (circa 1815) showing the western factories at Canton. Below, this rare Chinese armorial meat dish, made for a former bishop of Oporto, fetched £9,900 in London last May

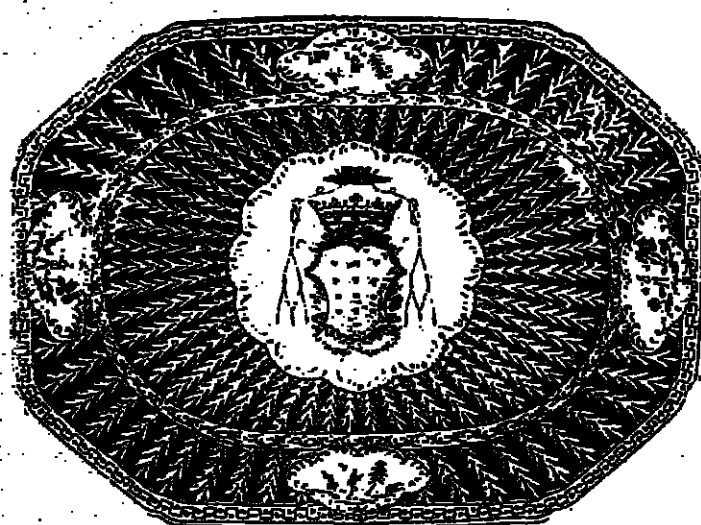
In 1986 the press was greatly excited by the auction of 160,000 pieces of Chinese blue and white porcelain, together with 120 gold ingots and various other Chinese and European artefacts which had been recovered from the wreck of a Dutch East India ship, the Geldermalsen, in the South China Sea. The "Nanking Cargo", as it was called by the publicity mongers, was not particularly special in China trade terms but revived a "China mania".

There was a considerable trade in silks and spices between the Chinese and the Roman empires, but ceramics do not seem to have featured much in it except, perhaps incidentally, in the form of containers. In the following centuries, however, other foreigners closer to hand were easily accommodated by the Chinese pottery. There were vessels for the Japanese tea ceremony, large marlbanani storage jars for the Indonesian islands, and forms and designs to Islamic tastes for Persia and the West. Inevitably, and inaccurately, Marco Polo is credited with the beginnings of European interest in porcelain and allied wares, and his name has been attached

The publication next month of a respected, and now revised, guide on the ancient Chinese decorative arts, leads Huon Mallalieu on his own voyage of exploration of Eastern delights

to certain individual examples. The great collection of Augustus the Strong (1670-1733), at Dresden, includes "Butter tubs brought from the East by Marco Polo", which are, alas for romance, incense burners, perhaps made in Augustus's lifetime. In fact, it was the Portuguese who began the real China trade, and in the late 16th and 17th centuries the great fairs of Paris were full of their merchandise.

The Dutch, the English and the French followed, and by the beginning of the 19th century 12 European powers and the United States had factories, or trading posts, on the China coast. Two figures help to give an idea of the immensity of the trade. Between 1605, when Dutch trading voyages began, and 1656, more than three million pieces of porcelain had been embarked for Holland from Formosa, as Taiwan was then known, and in 1735 just two English ships discharged a total of 240,000 pieces. Also, it is easy to overlook the vast number



of other Chinese works of art which were exported: paintings, sculptures, wallpapers, glass and mirror paintings, enamels, silks, fans, furniture, ivory and wood carvings, silver and bronzes and lacquer wares such as boxes,

caddies, screens and panels. There was probably a quantity of lacquer aboard the East Indiaman Geldermalsen, but none survived the long immersion.

In Britain, and to a lesser extent Spain, Portugal and Brazil, one of the most visible of the categories made by the Chinese for export is armorial porcelain, which was particularly fashionable in the 18th century, both as single pieces and full dinner services.

"China Coast paintings", executed between about 1760 and the 1800s by Chinese artists working in a more or less European manner. These include portraits, watercolours of street scenes and various trades and industries, views of the ports frequented by westerners, most notably the Hong Kong, foreign merchants' factories at Canton, and ship portraits. There are also the European artists, led by George Chinnery, who settled on the China Coast, and worked in a manner into which a certain Chinese influence was infused.

Mr Crossman is sound and informative on Chinese export furniture. He also covers lacquer, the craze for blue and white, fans, silver and metal workers, silks and textiles and painted wallpapers. Wisely, in this revision, he omits all discussion of ceramics, because of the vastness of the subject and the wealth of scholarly information already available.

Despite the British publisher, the book is written from a very American standpoint, which tends to place too great an emphasis on the later part of the long history of the trade. It is, however, a valuable and intriguing starting point.

Maps to times gone by

Preview

- Today: Maps, prints, photographs, drawings, manuscripts and all sorts of ephemera are included in an antiquarian book sale held by Locke & England of Leamington, at noon.
- Monday and Tuesday: Lucy Scott's sale at Bury St Edmunds includes a collection of early radica paintings, dolls, ceramics, silver and furniture; Monday 6.30pm, Tuesday 10.30am and 6.30pm.
- Wednesday and Thursday: In Leominster, Russell Baldwin & Bright offers more than 1,000 lots, beginning with silver and jewels and ending with the principal contents of the drawing room at Whitbourne Hall, Worcester, 10am each day.
- Thursday: Phillips, at its stamp sale, offers the gold medal awarded to Rowland Hill for inventing the penny post. A



test-beche pair of George V 1d reds, where one is upside-down, could make £25,000, 11am. Bloomsbury Book Auctions, at 1pm, goes back to natural history with a specialist sale including Dresser's *Birds of Europe* (up to £7,000). In a scientific section there is a first edition of Hooke's *Micrographia* (up to £5,000).

Friday: Phillips offers English silver spoons, ranging from a 1400 acorn knob (up to £700) to an 1880 ladle (up to £80). A pair of Henry VII hexagonal knob spoons could make up to £8,000, 11am.

Locke & England, Walton House, 11 The Parade, Leamington (0926 427988), Lucy Scott, 10 Rishby Street, Bury St. Edmunds (0284 763531), Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, W1 (071-629 6602), Russell Baldwin & Bright, Rylands Road, Leominster, Herefordshire (0568 611166), Bloomsbury Book Auctions, 3-4 Harwick Street, EC1 (071-833 2636).

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Lynne Truss looks back at the heady days of Lime Grove studios, when television was made for family consumption

Raised on Muffins and Brownies

What are the dangers to children of growing up with television? At Edinburgh this week, a little flurry of debate whirled briefly around this modern conundrum and then — as always — floated to rest. Nobody knows, really, whether today's square-eyed kiddies are better or worse off than the poor little tykes of the pre-television era. On Wednesday, in Edinburgh Nights (BBC 2), a spokesman for the BBC's education department denied that the impact of television culture is a reduction of literacy. But unfortunately he somewhat undermined his argument by referring to public misconceptions as a "general misnomer".

For those who find the question boring and unresolvable, there is a certain comfort in the thought that it will soon, in any case, be obsolete. By the year 2000, very few people will be able to remember being brought up on anything other than television, so the matter will be obliged to drop. Like today's inveterate cigarette-smokers, the children of the television age will refuse to entertain doubts about their lifelong habit. When the health issue is raised, we shall all smile and shake our heads, saying, "Listen, sunshine, television never did me any harm, and I watched it for ten hours a day."

There are quite a few of us, actually, who already fall into this category — people who were brought up entirely on Fifties and Sixties television, yet, by some miracle, can nevertheless hold a book the right way up, or print our names without getting the letters back to front. When we meet, we confer excitedly about our favourite plot — lines from *The Avengers* and *No Hiding Place* — and ask anxiously whether anybody else remembers a kids' sci-fi programme called *Space Patrol* (nobody ever does). Outsiders may

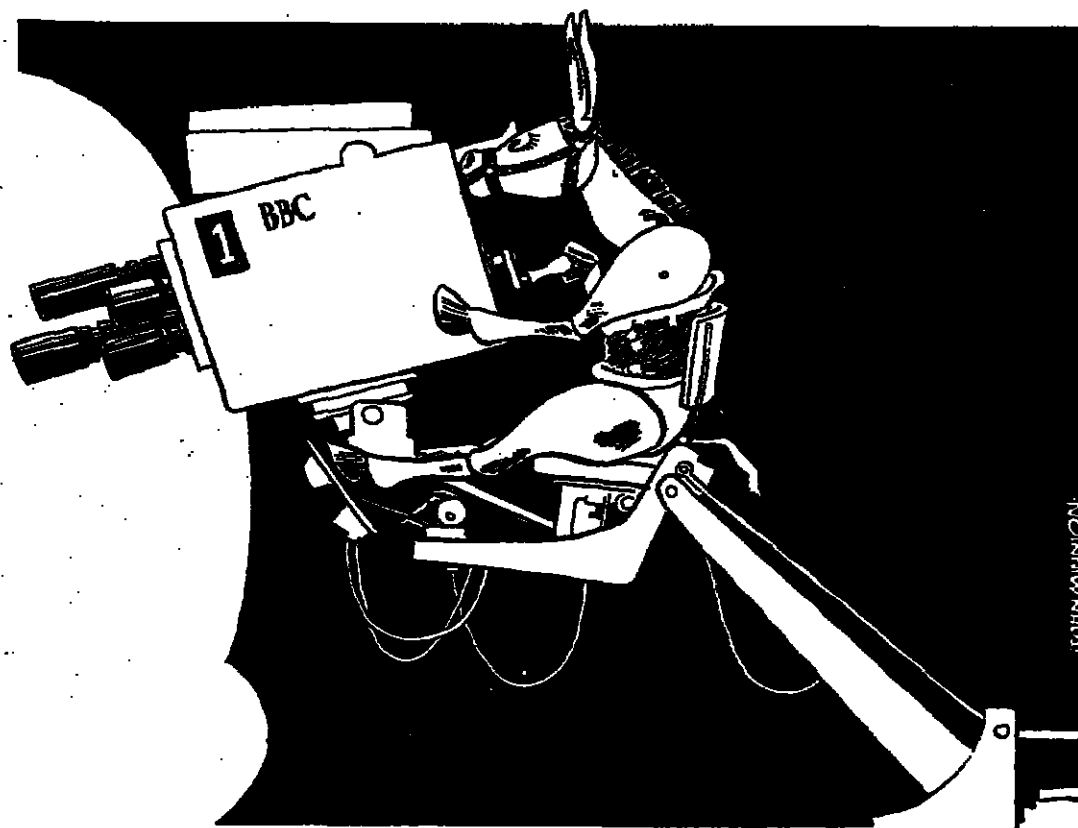
'Watching The Lime Grove Story was like flipping through a family album of Box Brownie black and whites'

spot us by our awkward stringed-puppet loping gait (with wrists higher than our shoulders), and by our custom of bidding goodbye to each other in the style of *The Flowerpot Men*. "Bup Up, Lippie Weeb." "Bup Up."

By some strange coincidence, many members of this brainy baby-boom sub-culture have found themselves slap-bang back in the BBC, making arts features about television programmes that (in some cases) predate their own

birth. Back to the womb, as you might say. Last Monday's all-day BBC 2 extravaganza marking the closure of the Lime Grove studios was a splendid tribute to the heady days of *Tonight and Light Entertainment*, to *Doctor Who* and *What's My Line?* — but what was most noticeable about it was its sense of uncritical rapture. Oh boy. If early television was innocuous, then watching *The Lime Grove Story* was rather like flipping through a family album of Box Brownie black and whites. "Look, here's big sister Alma Cogan. The size of that frock! And here's Uncle Bob Wellings on *Nationwide*. I can't believe I ever liked those sideburns, can you?"

Editors and reporters from *Tonight* and *Panorama* all paid affectionate tribute to their own part in the medium's infancy, while the words "Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive" hung above their heads. In those days, *Tonight* reporters (Trevor Philpott, Fyfe Robertson, Alan Whicker) travelled the world, and brought back unbridled tales of Tokyo commuters or Las Vegas wedding chapels. But what came across equally strongly through the entire day was "Bliss was it in that dawn to be allowed to stay up to watch *Quatermass*". The view of television was the wide-eyed view of a Fifties child lying on the new fitted carpet, while the house filled up around him with fridges, hair-driers and portable radios. The only thing that conferred no bliss whatsoever was the Lime Grove site itself, evidently. Sitting around in its deserted offices, with the air of old boys revisiting school, none of the participants could find a single good word for the building. "Hideous" was Ludovic Kennedy's heart-felt description of it. Clips from *We Are Your Servants*, a Fifties BBC home movie, showed a couple of fat-legged ballerinas dancing pluckily through the dreary corridors of Lime Grove, and down its nasty institutional concrete staircases — strangely, without nudging it a single inch nearer to a thing of beauty. All BBC buildings seem to exude the same peculiar essence of re-used polystyrene coffee cup, and Lime Grove was clearly no exception. As Muffin the Mule trotted blithely through the deserted studios and assembly points, one half-expected to see BBC employees scuttling into corners clutching broken angle-poise lamps under their arms. Unfortunately for the planners, the Bank Holiday was a day of sunshine. While owners of garden centres doubtless kissed the warm earth in thanks, the makers of *The Lime Grove Story* must have



British television history through the eyes of a well-known participant: Muffin the Mule

and cursed. It was strange to think of this popular material transformed into "minority" viewing. Years ago, said David Attenborough, a BBC television producer walking home from Lime Grove could spot a living-room window illuminated by the blue light of a television screen and know that his programme was being watched. The "reach" was phenomenal: there has never been anything quite like it. After 1955, of course, the viewers made a concerted dash to commercial television. Yet the BBC product nevertheless nestled deep in the public's consciousness, and *The Lime Grove Story* knew how to recall it, with succinct bits of Cliff Michelmore. "The next *Tonight* will be tomorrow night. Good night."

Once Television Centre was built, Lime Grove surrendered its dusty Springfield and Doctor Whos, and became Current Affairs capital of the BBC, which was why

the atmospheric clashes between politicians and broadcasters expressed themselves regularly in storms over its ugly silhouette, with each faction accusing the other of being too big for its boots.

In Monday's programmes, what emerged usefully was the context for the broadcasters' self-confessed arrogance when dealing with politics. From *Panorama* to *Nationwide*, the steadfast (and unquestioning) belief of interviewers and film-makers was that they simply represented the interests of the "public".

Watching *Nationwide*, said one pundit, you could be just sitting innocently eating your tea, and suddenly Vic Feather was being baited on screen — apparently on your behalf. What was not made clear was that it was surely during the reign of *Nationwide* (1969-1983) that the notion of consensus television finally faltered. It was

possible to loathe *Nationwide* for its familial overtones, its assumption that everybody at home wanted the same questions answered, or that we all loved endless repetition of the same pay-off visual gag (summed up as "Pull back to reveal no trousers").

On Fridays, Channel 4 is showing *Dream On*, an American sitcom featuring a man of precisely my age whose ostensible problem in life is that he was reared on television. Clips from ancient shows continually flash into his mind, at bad moments, distracting him from the less cozy aspects of his real life. To be honest, *Dream On* might actually work better without these interludes because they add very little. But we should all take warning that self-referential television is now set on a course, and will forever increase. The medium is not just the message any more: the medium is the mummy. Bup Up, Lippie Weeb.

In tune with its roots

CONCERT

Czech PO/
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Usher Hall

TO BEGIN was the Edinburgh Festival, a brief celebration, Lukás Matoušek's *Fantasia* for 17 November: not the most original piece ever written in the genre, perhaps, but an important gesture from one of those many artists whose aspirations were previously stifled by totalitarian rule. Hearing it gave the audience a chance to assess the quality of the brass players of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, visitors to Edinburgh for three concerts. They are a little rough and ready, and less rounded compared with most British groups, but produce an admirably open sound.

This openness, together with the orchestra's predictable devotion to the work of Dvořák, helped its performance of that composer's *Seventh Symphony* to be utterly compelling. Dvořák is not a composer whose work responds to mere polish: it is too rooted in common human experience for that.

Here Sir Charles Mackerras powered the symphony, resistibly onward, beguiling the ear with his carefully judged balance and well-sprung rhythms, and relishing both light and dark aspects of this ambivalent, yet satisfyingly complete piece.

AFTERWARDS, Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass* sounded magnificent, despite the hindrance of a rather too artificial-sounding electronic organ. This majestic affirmation of faith again gains its sense of spirituality from a deep awareness of the human condition rather than through any self-consciously lofty aspirations. Like Beethoven's *Missa Solenne*, the *Glagolitic Mass* seems as much secular as sacred, despite the composer's scrupulous observation of the ritual in his provision of instrumental pieces for the clergy's entrance and exit.

The Edinburgh Festival Chorus gave a splendidly full-throated performance, while the team of soloists, Zora Jechliczková, Eva Randová, Leo Marian Vodička and Peter Mikuláš, were equally good, blending well together and lending the work an authentic colour which no singer from another country could possibly reproduce. The same cannot be said of Mackerras, in whose Antipodean blood Czech music, and especially Janáček's, flows naturally. That is something the Czech PO, which rose superbly, brass and all, to the demands of the piece, obviously appreciates.

STEPHEN PETTITT

STEPHEN PETTITT

Dramatic vista with too many views



Gentle vision of the emperor: Glenn Winstead as Titus

FIRST, an apology. A few days ago, in justifying Stephen Oliver's new production of *La Clemenza di Tito* given at the Proms, I readily subscribed to the common dismissive view of the original, in all likelihood composed in some haste by Süssmayr. That discounted the sort of delivery apparent in Scottish Opera's new production by Stephen Wadsworth, shared with Houston Grand Opera. This cast turns it into a dramatic and fast-moving dialogue, which both gives the piece a spark of vitality and allows the arias the space to be what they should be: investigations of states of mind.

La Clemenza di Tito King's

changes of scene and mood, and reflects Rome aflame impressively, if perhaps somewhat conventionally. Wadsworth has concentrated on making the principal characters seem like real people, for all the traditional failings of the English translation (how many times should the phrase "Oh I am feeling so tormented" really be allowed to appear?). The decidedly smooth tenor of Glenn Winstead is well-suited to his gentle vision of the role of Titus, and he just manages to

avoid the pitfall of oily virtue. Juliana Gondek's Vitellia is a red-haired, buxom and tempestuous figure (rather suggestive of Liz Taylor playing Lady Macbeth), her singing consequently hard and determined, while Anne Mason's ardent Sextus, with his penetrating, heroic tone, conveys well the torments of one who is both loyal subject and lover blinded by passion.

CLAIRE Daniels, as Servilia, delivers a deeply touching appeal to Titus in her Act I aria; Cheryl Barker's Annus, stubbornly refusing to grasp Sextus's hand in friendship in a troubled ending (Wadsworth offers no cosy reconciliation), and Robert Poulton's softly sympathetic Publius complete a fine cast. The chorus work is

sometimes a touch shoddy offstage, but sturdy on it, though Wadsworth has not really succeeded in solving the problem of what to do with the members of the chorus, making them adopt Poussin-like poses.

Under the American-based conductor Nicholas McGegan, making his debut with the company, the Scottish Opera Orchestra plays with real verve, warmth and style, and there are elegant obbligatos from clarinet (Martin Burrell) in Sextus's Act I vengeance aria and from bass horn (Nicholas Ross) in Vitellia's self-searching Act II aria. The production moves to Glasgow's Theatre Royal on Tuesday.

Sparkling within a polished setting

DANCE
Giselle
King's, Glasgow

A BATTLE of the ballets is taking place in Scotland's two chief cities, with the Scottish Ballet in Glasgow competing against the dance events of the Edinburgh Festival. Last week the home team scored higher than the visiting Cuban ballet in their rival triple bills, except in respect of originality. This week, the Scottish *Giselle* sets a high standard for Peter Schaufuss's Berlin company to match.

Peter Darrell, Scottish Ballet's late founder choreographer, produced this *Giselle* 20 years ago, but it still holds together well for drama, style and conviction. An important factor is that Darrell decided to use only the music which Adam originally wrote for the ballet in 1841, omitting all the additions by other hands. The result is to make the action tighter, the central story is never lost, as can happen with more expansive versions.

Darrell set his production in a British context (a harvest

festival replaces the grape picking celebration), and in a small town instead of in the country. This enabled him to establish a close-knit community for the background, and to include a surprise ending where Giselle's forgiveness of Albrecht for betraying her is not shared by her former neighbours. At its last revival, three years ago, the production looked tired and dusty, but this time it has been polished lovingly to come up as good as ever. The company is also stronger now, and able to put up no fewer than five interpreters of the title role. Yuriy Shinkovskiy, whom I saw, has the gift of making every movement look fresh, instinctive and true. Partly that arises from a disarming trust and simplicity in her acting, partly from an innate musicality, which phrases the choreography closely to the score — a colourful, theatrical but never lurid orchestration, well played under Richard Honner. Tristan Borrer makes a pleasingly direct Albrecht, puzzled and regretful at the trouble he has caused.

JOHN PERCIVAL

Seduced by social sleaze

The Blue Angel
Other Place,
Stratford

BETTER banish any sweet-sour memories of Marlene Dietrich huskily throbbing out torch-songs while men self-destruct for the sake of a smile. In fact, better forget the movie altogether. The Heinrich Mann novel on which it was based was a less sentimental proposition, and so is the play Pam Gems has derived from the book. Trevor Nunn, who directs with his usual adroitness, is re-opening the Royal Shakespeare Company's rebuilt *Other Place* with a gaudy picture of moral degradation in an increasingly ugly Weimar Republic.

Suppose Dr Arnold, pillar of the public school system, had been driven by need to become a nightclub crook, the kind who nowadays ends up escaping from the police to the Costa del Sol. Or imagine that Mr Gladstone, actually married one of the tarts he was so fond of trying to reform, and was successfully transformed into Mr Hyde, Captain Hook and, in a last desperate attempt to scrape a living, Coco the Clown. Such is the fate of



Practical, but gutsy: Kelly Hunter as Lola

Hunter's gutsy, practical Lola, whose cynical front conceals a yearning for finer things, and Raat, the man who wins her. He, not she, is the major part, and a tricky one for any actor. As played by Philip Madoc, he is the archetypal stuffed shirt, a squat tyrant bristling with right-mindedness and chauvinist arrogance. It is hard, then, to understand why he is moved to pursue a recalcitrant pupil to the Hamburg slums (Gems could have helped here) and not easy to see why he falls so instantly and abjectly for the very woman he has taught his charges to despise. Madoc does much to suggest the insecure, sexually hypnotised animal beneath the social bluster; but it will not quite do.

This would not matter so much if the wooing and wedding did not last two-thirds of the evening. What is really absorbing is the last act, when Raat finds himself snubbed for his misalliance by the great men who once fêted him. The ultra-conventional snob becomes the victim of ultra-conventional snobbishness, and reacts with awful vindictiveness, becoming a blackmailer and calling himself a moral scourge. There are moments here when the newly confident Madoc radiates a feral, terrifying rage. It is a pity there are not more of them.

His criminal career is short-lived, of course. Gems's play is a portrait of the brutality of the powerful, an attack on corruption, hypocrisy and ruthless success in action. By the end, all that is left for the ruined Raat is to parade before the sneering nobles of Hamburg in a face daubed with white, with a pig's snout for a nose and tufts of blue protruding from his clown's skullcap. It is a painful moment, a strong, suggestive closing to an uneven play.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Shaw saw that Molly Tompkins "was as vain as a goldfinch". He tutored her himself. He told her when to use make-up, how to pronounce Spanish and order a vegetarian meal without risking death; how to bargain for white oxen in Italy; how to cure a fear of bats; and he strongly recommended parrots as preferable to dogs as pets for beautiful women.

Bernard Shaw in love — the first exclusive extract from the third volume of Michael Holroyd's biography of GBS, tomorrow, in The Sunday Times

PC-2

--

The unseen Soviet archive film and the testimonies of survivors. The memories, still sharp and painful, are perfectly matched to footage of haunted faces and dead bodies lying in the snow. The images are given extra force by being presented without sound. After the war Stalin tried to erase the story of civilian suffering and gave the credit to the military. With the help of glasnost Khrushchev has been able to put the record straight.

30 **World Athletics Championships.** Desmond Lynam introduces live coverage from Tokyo of the men's marathon. With highlights of the penultimate day's competition. Ends at 12.35pm.

TV VARIATIONS

ANGELA
London episode: 12:30p-1:00. Animal
Shores: 1:35. The 7-Team: 2:55-4:45.
Fishes: 5:45. 5:55. Angela News: 6:30.
Cartoon Time: 12:35pm. Video: 1:25-2:30.
Angela's Special: 2:35-3:00.

HTV WEST
As London episode: 12:30p-1:00. Press
Your Luck: 1:25. Kidnaped: 3:50-4:45. The
Life and Times of Grizzly Adams: 5:05-6:30.

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1.15 Mothergals 3.145 Sports Roundup 2.00 Newshour 3.00 News Summary 3.01
 1.20 World News 4.15 BBE English 4.30 News and Features in German 4.59
 1.30 News 5.30 World and British News 5.15 BBE English 5.30 London 5.54 News
 1.40 Athens 6.29 News summary 6.30 Movie Aktuel 7.00 German features 7.14 Letter
 1.50 News 8.00 World News 8.05 Write On 8.15 London Reports 8.30 Letterbox 8.45 From the
 1.55 second half 9.40 World of Faith 9.50 From the Weeklies 10.00 Newshour 11.00 World
 1.55 Seagulls 11.20 Jazz for the Asking 11.30 Sports Roundup 12.00 World News
 1.55 News of Faith 12.20 Book Choice 12.15 A John Gorki Show 1.00 Newshour 1.30

10.10 Violin Sonatas: Dmitry Sitkovetsky, Pavel Giloy, piano, perform Janáček (Sonata); Strauss (Sonata in E flat, Op 18); Prokofiev (Sonata No 1 in F minor, Op 80)

25 On the Hour (a) (r) 5.60
Shipping Forecast 5.55
Weather
12.00 News: Sports Round-up
12.00-12.30am News, incl 12.20
Weather 12.33 Shipping
Forecast

SEQUENCES: Radio 1: 1053k-hz/235cm/1099k-hz/275m; FM-87.5-99.8. Radio 2:
99.0-2. Radio 3: 1215k-hz/247m; FM-90.2-2.

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BBC 1

6.50 Open University: Education - The Bennett Report
7.15 World Athletics Championships. Desmond Lynam introduces a day of competition from Tokyo. The line-up is (subject to alteration): (7.40) Men's 1,500m final; men's high jump final (8.00) Women's javelin final; (8.15) Women's 4 x 100m final; (8.50) Men's 4 x 100m final; (9.10) Men's 5,000m final; (9.50) Women's 4 x 400m final; (10.10) Men's 4 x 400m final
10.30 Greenbelt. Last weekend Jill Dando took part in the Sunday morning open-air communion service which forms part of the annual Greenbelt arts festival near Castle Ashby in Northamptonshire
11.30 See Hear. The magazine series for the deaf and hard-of-hearing returns with a new edition of the Deaf Broadcasting Council
12.00 Some Enchanted Evening. The role of a West End understudy (I)
1.00 News Followed by Speaking Volumes. Book reviews
1.45 Cartoons 2.00 EastEnders. Omnibus edition (I). (Coast)
3.00 Dailies: When the Wind Blows. (Coast)
3.45 Film: Midnight Lace (1980). Overblown psychological thriller in which Doris Day is cast against type as the American wife of a wealthy financier (Rex Harrison). Threatening phone calls convince her that her life is in danger but her pleas for help fall on deaf ears. Directed by David Miller
5.30 Cariboo
5.45 Salford Lads: The Living Isles - Under the Plough. In the eighth of a ten-part series, Julian Pettifer examines the effects of farming on the countryside and its wildlife (I). (Coast)
6.25 News with Moira Stuart. Weather
6.40 Songs of Praise: Seedtime. Pam Rholes joins the crowds for Seedtime, a one-day celebration of Christian faith in Staffordshire (Coast)
7.15 Keeping up Appearances. The return of Roy Clarke's comedy, starring Patricia Routledge as the snobbish Hyacinth Bucket. (Coast)
7.45 Bread. A new series of the Liverpool comedy about the penny-pinching Shaws. Starring Jean Boht. (Coast)
8.15 Trainers. A horse racing drama sired by Howards' Way out of Dick Francis. From Howards' Way, it is a rough diamond millionaire and one-dimensional actor. Francis fans will be at home with the racehorse skulduggery and the young bachelor hero. The episode one takes time to lay out its stall but the attempt of Mike Hardy (Mark Greenstreet) to become a top trainer. This may not be easy. Mike has a drink problem and he also has a problem with nasty, lip-curling Hugo (Patrick Ryecart), who has a gambling problem. The roles of Susanah York's rich widow, and of David McMillan, as another character who likes a flutter, have yet to be defined. The best is that Trainers will follow Howards' Way in another respect and be panned by the critics while pulling in viewers by the million. (Coast)
9.10 News with Martin Lewis. Weather



Decline and fall of the East Cheam donor: Alfred Moline (9.25pm)

9.25 Screen One: Hancock.
9.30 CHOICE: William Humble's drama follows the decline and fall of Tony Hancock from the peak of his career with The Blood Donor to his suicide in Australia. Humble has based his screenplay on the excellent biography by David Nathan and Hancock's widow, Freddie. For readers of the book the content will be familiar, though the pain comes across even more sharply. The comedian is presented as a figure tragically adrift, trying to escape what he saw as the parochial shackles of East Cheam but unable to make it as an international star. Whether the heavy drinking was cause or effect is a nice point. The piece is dominated by a wonderful performance from Alfred Moline, who captures the essence of Hancock, the resigned voice, the froglike face, the hunched walk, without ever tipping over into caricature. Frances Barber contributes a vivid portrait of the suffering Freddie. (Coast)
11.25 Everman: A Life on Trial. A portrait of Casey Cohen, a California investigator, who tries to save convicted murderers from the death penalty (I)
12.05am Melbahharat (I). Wales: Business Matters 12.45 Weather

BBC 2

6.35 Open University: The View from Moscow 7.00 Industrial Strife 7.25 Calculus - The Directional Derivative 7.50 Cars and Curves 8.15 Everyday Violence 8.40 Photomontage - The First Handsecond 9.05 Motion in a Circle 9.30 The Werther 9 Code 9.55 Arts - King Cotton's Palace 10.20 Biology: Problems with Ions 10.45 Maths - Modelling Cars 11.10 Open Forum 11.35 Frontiers of Geology
12.00 English Romantic Poets in Italy. The relationship between poets Byron and Shelley
12.25 English Whores: English? The relationship between English literature and the Empire at the turn of the century
12.50 Holiday Outings Hungary. Eamon Holmes samples a motoring holiday in Hungary (I)
1.00 Cars in the Community. Alternatives to hospital care for the mentally ill (I)
1.25 Sunday Grandstand. Introduced by Desmond Lynam. Including at 1.30, 6.00 World Athletics Championships. Highlights of the final day of competition from Tokyo, the closing ceremony, and a review of the past nine days 2.30 Motor Sport. Round 12 of the British Formula 3 championships 3.00 Golf. Highlights of the final round of the European Open from Walton Heath
8.00 This is Your Life. Ralph Edwards introduces the first British edition of the show he made famous in the United States. It was transmitted in July 1955 (I)
8.30 One Man and His Dog. Phil Drabble introduces the finale of the BBC's International Speeddog Championship from Bessentwale in Cumbria. Julie Deftord from Scotland with Gwen competes against Waleman Colli Gordon with Meg in the singles, who also faces Stuart Davidson in the brace final
7.15 Wildlife Classics: Okavango - Jewel of the Kalahari. The second of a three-part documentary on the wildlife which inhabits the African oasis where the Okavango River meets the Kalahari (I). (Coast)
8.10 The Last Days of Leningrad: The Return to St Petersburg. In June this year the citizens of Russia's former capital voted to readopt their city's historic title of St Petersburg. This is a portrait of the last hours before the historic referendum
9.00 The Last Days of Leningrad: 800 Seconds of 800 Seconds. A profile of Alexander Nevskiy, who presented the Soviet Union's daily news programme 800 Seconds, which is featured on BBC2 later this week. (Coast)
9.10 John Sessions's Tall Tales: The Toy Shop. The last of six one-man plays, written and performed by John Sessions. A toy shop assistant deals with an unusual customer (I)
9.35 Selfies. Steve Rider introduces the finale of the final round in the European Open from Walton Heath. With commentary by Peter Allen, Bruce Critchley, Alex Hay, Clive Clark and Mike Hughesdon



Extra-sensory mystery: Benjamine and Bendorchuk (10.15pm)

10.15 Monderoom: Solari (1972). Alex Cox continues the season of cult films with Russian director Andrei Tarkovsky's science-fiction adventure in which a psychologist experiences hallucinations when he is sent to investigate mysterious events on a space station orbiting a remote planet. The film is visually arresting but often obscure and a very long haul. Starring Natalya Bondarchuk, Doroteia Benjamine, Anatoli Bendorchuk and Yuri Jarvel. In Russian with English subtitles. Ends at 1.05am

ITV

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Disney Club. The children's entertainment programme returns with more cartoons, guests and special features. Today's guest is Sonia who sings her new single 'Be Young, Be Happy'. Presented by Andrew Bannister, John Eccleston and Paul Hendry
10.45 Link. Peter White talks to Richard Wood, director of the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People. With signing and subtitles
11.00 Morning Worship from All Saints Church in Telford, Shropshire
11.00 The Human Factor: The Pancha's Preacher. In the first programme of a new series, Peter Williams talks to George Foreman, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, about his beliefs and his career
12.25 Way of the Lakes. Tony Warburton continues his journey around the Cumbrian Lake District 12.55 LWT News and weather
1.00 ITN News with Sue Carpenter. Weather
1.00 Broadside Britain: The Bottom Line. The last in the series on the history of the British motor industry (I)
1.40 Film: El Dorado (1986). Director Howard Hawks with a partial remake of his classic Western, Rio Bravo. Gunfighter John Wayne arrives in the town of El Dorado to take part in a local range war and is greeted by his old friend Robert Mitchum, the drunken sheriff



Walter Cronkite examines our prehistoric friends (4.00pm)

4.00 Dinosaur: The Tale of a Tooth.
4.00 CHOICE: A four-part trip into prehistory signals its intentions by casting its net for the veteran American newsmen Walter Cronkite, as a kindly old uncle telling a story to a small boy. This is a series for the whole family, not just the children, and it is pitched accordingly. The message is that dinosaurs are fun, a proposition endorsed by one of the show's many academic experts who looks like a real-life Walter Cronkite. The series consists of a solid narrative around such personae as the British, Richard Owen, who came up with the name dinosaur 150 years ago, but the programme wears its learning lightly. Whenever the going gets tough, Cronkite leaves the experts to mull over their 150 million-year-old bones and calls in the cinema's ace monster-maker, Ray Harryhausen, or a man who builds dinosaurs from the parts of smashed-up Cadillac and Chevrolet
5.00 The London Match. Jim Rosenthal presents highlights of a top first division game, with commentary by Alan Parry
6.00 Bullseye. Jim Bowen hosts a new series of the darts and general knowledge quiz game. Bob Anderson throws for charity
6.30 ITN News with Sue Carpenter. Weather 6.35 LWT News and weather
6.40 Highway: The Tall Ships. Sir Harry Scobee starts a new series in Belfast where he joins the competitors in the Cutty Sark Tall Ships race. Who should he bump into but American television reporter Walter Cronkite (see Dinosaur above). (Crack)
7.15 You're Bessie! Francis Brassard Jersey Doodle introduces the funniest home videos from the past decade (I)
7.45 Family of Spies. The first of a two-part mini series, based on the true story of the Russian spy John Walker, a former US submarine communications officer, whose extensive spy network included family and friends. Part two can be seen tomorrow at 8pm. Starring Powers Boothe and Lesley Ann Warren. (Crack)
9.45 ITN News with Sue Carpenter. Weather 10.00 LWT Weather
10.05 The Teeth Man (1989). Weridus drama, adapted from the novel by Graham Greene. Anthony Hopkins stars as a wealthy Parisian lawyer, due to be shot at dawn by the Nazis, who bribes a fellow prisoner to take his place. After the war he returns to his village where he falls in love with the dead man's sister (Kirstin Scott Thomas). Directed by Jack Gold. (Crack)
11.50 The ITV Chart Show
1.55 Film: Blood of the Vampire (1958). Gory horror film about a doctor in 1880 Transylvania who is executed for being a vampire. Brought back to life, he becomes a doctor at a prison for the criminally insane. Directed by Harry Cass
3.30 Heddon Confidential. Philip Heddon investigates child abuse
4.00 Police Precinct. French police drama series
5.00 Soap. Home domestic melodrama with the Tate and Campbell households. Starring Diana Carbone and Jimmy Balo (I)
5.30 ITN Morning News with Tim Nelvin. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Trans World Sport 7.00 Eureka's Castle. Cartoons 7.30 Alfred J. Kwak 8.00 Sharky and George 8.30 Kelly. The adventures of two children and a police dog 8.55 Kid 'n' Play. Cartoon
9.25 The Sword of Tipu Sultan. Indian historical drama series in Hindi with English subtitles
10.00 Dispatches: Thinking of the Soldier. A documentary on the hidden casualties of war, the men whose psychological scars leave them unable to lead normal lives (I) 10.45 Dennis. Cartoon
11.00 Owl TV. Michaela Strachan hosts the children's wildlife and environmental series (I). (Teletext)
11.30 The Lone Ranger: Trouble in Town (b/w). Classic Western adventure with the masked avenger (John Hart)
12.00 The Waltons: The Threshold. American series set in West Virginia during the Depression. Rosa (Peggy Rea) goes on a diet
1.00 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea: The X Factor. Fictive science-fiction adventure series. A top scientist is kidnapped
2.00 Film: Sweetheart of the Campus (1941, b/w). Minor Busby Berkeley musical starring Ruby Keeler in her last film role as a dancer who helps band leader Cezaire Nelson and singer Harriet Hilliard to save a college from closure. Directed by Edward Dmytryk
3.15 Gaelic Games: All Ireland Hurling Final. Michael Lyster introduces Kilkenny v Tipperary, live from Croke Park, Dublin
5.05 News Summary and weather
5.10 Family Pkide. Asian drama series. Anu (Annu Misra) and Melissa (Emma Davies) plan for their big day
5.40 Film: The Three Stooges - Hold That Lion (b/w). Madcap comedy as the trio find themselves on a speeding train in the company of a ferocious lion, while trying to apprehend a villain who has stolen their uncle's inheritance
6.00 The Absolute Beginner's Guide to American Football. Prior to the start of the new season later this evening, Mick Luckhurst and Gary Ingham explain the basic rules of the game
6.30 The Cosby Show: Cliff La Douce. American comedy with the Huxtable family. While the women are away... Cliff (Bill Cosby) babysits
7.00 Equinox: The Falls. A portrait of one of the natural wonders of the world, the Niagara Falls, a symbol of danger, power and beauty and now, sadly, pollution (Teletext)



Classic cars under the hammer: a 1921 Sunbeam (8.00pm)

8.00 Classic Cars: Autojumble.
8.00 CHOICE: Old car enthusiasts converge on Lord Montagu's Baulieu to scavenge what they can from the world's biggest automotive jumble sale. The event may be presented as amateur, eccentric and therefore very British, but one person's rusting heap is another's prize possession. A 1936 SS Jaguar, completely rotted, fetches £24,500 at auction and will cost twice that much to restore. Even a tatty Vauxhall Viva, not one of the world's great cars, has acquired classic status. Some patrons come not for whole cars but bits of cars, haggling over headlamps, differing over differentials and relishing an entire stall devoted to (wait for it) discontinued oil seals. Future programmes, in what promises to be a diverting series, will focus on classic cars from Italy and the United States and evoke Britain's golden age of motoring in the Fifties and Sixties. (Teletext)
8.30 American Football. Mick Luckhurst hosts the tenth year of American football coverage, beginning with the Philadelphia Eagles v the Green Bay Packers and the Browns v Dallas
10.00 Film: Speaking Parts (1989). Director Atom Egoyan's complex drama explores the video-camera mediated relationships of two women and their infatuation with an actor, offering parallels with Steven Soderbergh's sex, lies and videotape. Starring Michael McKean, Arsinée Khanjian and Gabrielle Rose. (Teletext)
11.45 The Street: Check Up from the Neck Up. American police drama. Runyon (Ron Ryan) is ordered to report to the police psychiatrist
12.15am Panorama. Third of a four-part drama series set in a poor Italian village in Mussolini's early years. In Italian with English subtitles. Ends at 1.10

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 12.30pm-12.55pm Farming Week 1.10 Goals Goals 1.35 The Spectator World of Guinness Records 2.00 100 UK Trivia 2.05 100 UK Trivia 2.10 100 UK Trivia 2.15 100 UK Trivia 2.20 100 UK Trivia 2.25 100 UK Trivia 2.30 100 UK Trivia 2.35 100 UK Trivia 2.40 100 UK Trivia 2.45 100 UK Trivia 2.50 100 UK Trivia 2.55 100 UK Trivia 3.00 100 UK Trivia 3.05 100 UK Trivia 3.10 100 UK Trivia 3.15 100 UK Trivia 3.20 100 UK Trivia 3.25 100 UK Trivia 3.30 100 UK Trivia 3.35 100 UK Trivia 3.40 100 UK Trivia 3.45 100 UK Trivia 3.50 100 UK Trivia 3.55 100 UK Trivia 4.00 100 UK Trivia 4.05 100 UK Trivia 4.10 100 UK Trivia 4.15 100 UK Trivia 4.20 100 UK Trivia 4.25 100 UK Trivia 4.30 100 UK Trivia 4.35 100 UK Trivia 4.40 100 UK Trivia 4.45 100 UK Trivia 4.50 100 UK Trivia 4.55 100 UK Trivia 5.00 100 UK Trivia 5.05 100 UK Trivia 5.10 100 UK Trivia 5.15 100 UK Trivia 5.20 100 UK Trivia 5.25 100 UK Trivia 5.30 100 UK Trivia 5.35 100 UK Trivia 5.40 100 UK Trivia 5.45 100 UK Trivia 5.50 100 UK 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SATURDAY AUGUST 31 1991

WEEKEND MONEY

Brent losses

Brent Walker, the debt-laden leisure group, removed part of the mystery surrounding its surprise call for a Serious Fraud Office investigation this week.

Lord Kindersley, the chairman, said that past profits had been materially overstated. A review by the company's accountants disclosed an overstatement of unaudited profits for the first half of last year. Lord Kindersley also told of a dispute over property valuations involving George Walker, the former chairman.



Savers receiving monthly interest from their bank of building society may find themselves worse off than those investors who have opted for interest to be added to the account on a half-yearly or yearly basis.

Shut lines

Two telephone share information lines have been shut and a third is under investigation by the committee that supervises telephone information services.

Card confusion

National Westminster Bank is the last of the big four banks to introduce a fee for credit cards. The move has added to the confusion about credit card rates.

Plea on coins

People who bought coins from Certified Rare US Coins are being asked to contact the City of London fraud investigation office.

Letters



Inspectors of taxes do have a human side as J.R. Anderson recounts. Ramnik Shah, however, feels that the Inland Revenue should be made to pay the costs incurred by a taxpayer in resisting an unjustified tax demand.

Economic boost

While Britain bumps along the bottom, there was news of good economic performance by the world's three leading economies, Japan, America and Germany.

Merger backed

Tyndall, the investment management group, is backing a £24 million merger with Jupiter Tarbutt. Together the companies control funds of £1.3 billion.

Aircraft order

A \$1.4 billion aircraft order from Northwest Airlines to the European Airbus consortium means more work for British Aerospace.



Rudolf Agnew, chairman of TVS Entertainment, faced a call for the company to be broken up and the proceeds returned to shareholders. TVS is under fire for bidding too much to retain its television franchise.

Dividend up

Macfarlane Group (Clansman), the packaging group, saw interim profits fall from £4.8 million to £4.02 million. The dividend is up 2.8 per cent to 1.75p.

Back in profit

Bennett & Fountaine, the electrical wholesale group, returned to profit in the year ended June, but is not in a position to pay any dividends.

Ritual apology

There were more ritual apologies from bank chiefs in Tokyo where financial scandals may force the finance minister to resign.

Merger mania

The urge to merge is at work in the building society movement. The 100 or so societies operating at the start of last year had combined into 90 by last spring. Lindsay Cook expects a spate of activity soon. Smaller societies, especially in the Southeast, are finding life harder while larger, acquisitive operators are seeking further benefits of scale.

WEEK ENDING

Matthew Bond

Waving or just sinking

Keeping afloat is no easy task in the Nineties, as figures from the Association of British Chambers of Commerce revealed, with some 20,000 firms going into liquidation in the past year. But the week also brought some unexpected signs of buoyancy.

Harland & Wolff, the Belfast shipyard, was rightly cock-a-hoop about landing a £230 million order for six new bulk carriers which, given the state of British shipbuilding, suggests that the yard's sales staff probably walk on water in their spare time. But not even they could stand in the way of shipping tradition which dictates that the classification for the new ships is capsize. It needs to be read carefully, especially by landlubbers.

A number of Lloyd's marine syndicates will also be keen to ensure that the vital central "C" stays in place. For while capsize describes a class of vessel designed to survive the wild waters around Cape Horn, many names will be missing from the "C" has not been the only thing to go missing, often when the



ship has been navigating a particularly deep stretch of ocean.

Harland & Wolff has rightly seen the loss of 20 bulk carriers in a similar number of months as a marketing opportunity and the ships it will build for Swire Group and Cencar International will have specially strengthened hulls and will contain less of the failure-prone high tensile steel. Prudently, though, the yard has plotted a course that steers clear of the word unsinkable.

The increased longevity of Harland's new class of bulk carriers will come too late to help the number of names dwindling at a speed the shipbuilding industry would recognise. The week saw the bad news continuing with estimates that 1989's losses could total £1.4 billion, a figure that would send some names down for the third time.

For others, of course, 1989 was a speeded year. At Brent Walker, 1989 saw pre-tax profits virtually doubled to £82.2 million and net assets rise by over 40 per cent to £356 million. But just 12 months later the leisure company reported total losses of £249 million and net assets of just £139 million. Common sense suggests that either the 1989 or 1990 figures were wrong. Last Wednesday, the Serious Fraud Office went in to find out.

Two days later, however, the Brent Walker board decided it knew at least part of the answer and wiped another £200 million off 1990's net assets, leaving the company with a negative net worth of £56 million. The board, led by Lord Kindersley, said Brent Walker's £1.4 billion refinancing will not be affected by the news. Perhaps Harland & Wolff should be brought in as adviser.

Down in London's Docklands it was the turn of the Serious Fiasco Office, called in by Olympia & York, the Canadian property group, to discover who was responsible for the closure of the Docklands Light Railway in the week that saw the first tenant, State Street Bank, move into the 26th and 27th floor of the 300-ft skyscraper at O&Y's Canary Wharf development. One employee told journalists that the view from the 26th floor was "fantastic", but could someone give him a lift home.

Stickler with an eye for the law

DJ Freeman, the firm, has a reputation for being one of the most aggressive. Carol Leonard meets the founder

When David Freeman retires next March as the senior partner of DJ Freeman, the law firm, it will mark the end of an era. His retirement will coincide with the fortieth anniversary of the firm, founded by him as a sole practitioner, without clients, in one room above a greengrocer's shop in Cannon Street, London.

"It was very risky," says Freeman now. "I was 24 years old, had a six month old son, and both my father and father-in-law tried to dissuade me. They thought I was crazy."

That firm, which has 53 partners, 250 employees and an envied reputation in commercial property and insolvency law, will continue. But, with Freeman no longer at the helm, the eyes of the rest of the legal profession will soon be on it, to see if its culture has changed.

The reputation of DJ Freeman, the firm, has long been that of one of the toughest, most aggressive in the business. The reputation of DJ Freeman, the man, is even more formidable. "I have an image of being a dominating, pushy sort of bloke, dictatorial, and I don't think I'm any of those things," says Freeman. "In fact, I'm not. It comes from people I have never dealt with. People don't love you for starting your own business, you know. You have to be very careful."

Very careful indeed. Rumours were rife recently, within the legal profession, that DJ Freeman, the firm, was in financial difficulties, because it had laid off some people in its commercial property department. It is not. But success does not breed friendship, and lawyers can be bitchy.

Freeman is markedly different from those who rumour monger about his firm. The hypothetical prospect of ever being an assistant solicitor or a junior partner in one of today's large practices fills him with horror. He "politely declined" the offer of a partnership from the two-partner firm where he trained, in London's West End. "I just wanted to be my own man, to run my own affairs. It's a feeling instilled in me, a need to be independent."

He admits that, to that extent, he has "bucked the system" and says he enjoys nothing more than helping companies or people "who have got themselves into difficulties, sorting out all the loose ends, and getting them back on the road again". The more difficult the challenge the better.

If a decision to issue a writ is made at 2am, he can persuade a judge to be out of bed at 6.30am and in the High Court by 8.30am. He has been personally advising Cork Gully over Barlow Clowes. He is acting for Tony Berry over Manpower and Blue Arrow.

"Tony came to see me on January 9, because he was already getting the boot, and we settled at 11 pm on January 12. I got him £1.5 million," says Freeman. "I insisted that we walk out of that room with the cheque. They said the cheque book was locked up, but we left with the cheque." He is not a man to take "no" for an answer. "I believe that one should settle, not litigate, but if you have to litigate then be fair but tough." His style in settlement negotiations is persistent but always polite. He can get irritated but he would not thump the table. He never loses his temper. "I don't think anyone has ever found me unpleasant in meetings," says Freeman. "You can kill more people with sweetness than with poison." He laughs disarmingly. He has a soft, monotone voice.

But he is aware that his demeanour can be deceptive. "My father always said that I had a damning habit. He used to say: 'You look like the most relaxed cowboy I have ever seen, but underneath it you move at breakneck speed'."

My father said: 'You look like the most relaxed cowboy I have ever seen, but underneath it you move at breakneck speed'

derneath it you are able to move at breakneck speed. He was right. I can give the impression of being laid back but my mind is racing away all the time.

His use of the phrase "laid back" begs definition as it is a relative term. Compared with his Victorian parents he may well have appeared relaxed. That Victorian upbringing instilled sufficient discipline that Freeman sits permanently on the edge of his chair and, although he seems able to concentrate on only one thing at a time, his thoughts are in a permanent state of concentration. His brain never tires.

"Hyperactive? Yes, I think that would be pretty fair. My wife says I'm the only man she knows who runs with the lawn mower. I can't lay on a beach and do nothing, not even for half an hour." He was a sprinter and cross country runner in his youth. Even his reading is done at speed. He can read a 250-page book in six hours. That sense of urgency is linked to impatience and Freeman admits that he could be a better listener.

"But I do have an ability to cut through the chaff," he says. "When a client is being a bit woolly I say: 'Look, if I had a magic wand, what is it that you would like me to bring about?' Then we get to it."

Freeman's discipline, impatience and energy come from his mother, one of six children, brought up in London's East End. "She was the dominant figure in our household, very determined, very strong-willed and a strict disciplinarian. If she wanted to get something done, she got it done and she didn't let one down." He is, like her, in looks and personality. His father, a tailor, was much quieter and very conservative. Freeman, the youngest of three children, never saw him in anything other than a suit.

"You had to be exceptionally tidy, your cupboards had to be kept properly and before I went to school I had to get in the coke for the boiler and do my chores. My mother was very hot on manners, politeness, letter writing. She drilled that into us. Even now, if I have been to lunch with someone, a thank you letter will go off that afternoon. I still hang my trousers up carefully every night and I just cannot live in a mess." He points to his desk. Upon it lies just one small pile of papers, neatly positioned in the centre. Later, when I replace a company brochure on another pile, he reaches out absent-mindedly to straighten it.

Dr Isidore Redstone, the chairman of Hanover Druce, who has known Freeman since his teens, says: "He has always been extremely well organised. When we were boy scouts his uniform was always well pressed. He would get mud on his knees, but he liked to get it off again quickly. He ran a disciplined tent - he won all the inspection awards - but he was the only boy scout I knew who never cheated. He is a stickler for the rules. He has a very straightforward approach. He is not a complex soul." Freeman, he agrees, is the sort of man who would never drive at 71 mph, not even on a motorway.

Freeman is also a stickler for accuracy and he has a faultless memory for dates and details. Unlike most fathers at 63, he has instant recall of the ages and dates of birth of his three children and seven grandchildren. Although impressive, it can make him sound cold and clinical. He looks offended at that suggestion.

But talk to him about emotions and he admits that they have been stifled. He cried when his mother died, but would never normally shed a tear, nor show any emotion in public. Ask Iris, his wife, who was, until recently, a partner at DJ Freeman, what he



Partners-in-law: David Freeman with Iris, his wife, who until recently was a partner in the firm

is like and she will say that he is very sensitive, thin-skinned and easily hurt by what people sometimes say. "But he tries not to show it," she says. She also talks about his kindness and willingness to help other people less fortunate than himself.

Freeman is unable to talk to a stranger about this side of his life. Press him and he will say: "I'm having difficulties here..." It is surprising to discover that he is neither religious - "I am Jewish but I do not practice in a religious sense" - nor a life-long Conservative voter. If there were a general election tomorrow he would, he says, vote Conservative, but from the late Forties to the late Seventies he voted Labour. "I just could not stay with it any longer." He always thinks everything through.

Freeman, then, while straightforward but uncompromising at work, exacting and, at times, difficult, is also courteous, kind and generous, in a slightly quaint, old-fashioned way. Those traits combine to give him a rare, unaffected and refreshing quality - an overwhelming air of simplicity, innocence or unworldliness. Unusually for such a successful lawyer, it means that he is almost childlike in his enthusiasms and naive in his honesty.

Recession grounds executive jets

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

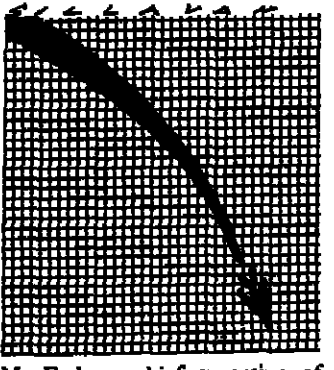
ANECDOTAL indicators of recession are legend, from sales of light bulbs to sales of plastic raw materials. But a measure of the depth of the present recession has to be the number of second-hand executive aircraft on the market.

Demand for the used jets and turbo-prop aircraft has been withdrawn from many. But now scores are to be sold in Europe's first executive aircraft auction. It is hoped that the sale, at Stansted airport in October, will help unblock a huge backlog of aircraft put up for sale by recession-hit companies. The number of executive jets on the

market has risen to 906 from 617 a year ago. Hundreds more are being held back because of the depressed market.

The European Business Aviation Association (Ebaa), which represents 200 companies with their own aircraft fleets, blames the recession for much of the drop in demand. But firms are also worried by EC proposals that would, if approved by the council of ministers, bar company aircraft from many of Europe's most congested and popular airports.

The new regulations, which could become law by 1993, would allow access to airports such as Heathrow and Frankfurt only to "air carriers", defined as scheduled and charter airlines. Frank



Macfarlane, chief executive of Ebaa, said: "We are fighting hard to convince ministers that executive aircraft, which bring in a great deal more business to a country than a plane load of

package tourists, should be given a fair share of the available slots at even the busiest airports."

He says that many of Europe's senior executives use company aircraft to get to Heathrow, for example, to catch Concorde to America and so save vital and costly working time. "Many politicians still see a business aircraft as little more than an executive toy, but that is far from the truth, and it is ridiculous to save vital hours by flying to use an airport only to be forced to use an airport well away from Heathrow." If the proposals become law, Ebaa aims to persuade Community governments to open military airfields near leading civilian airports for business jet use.

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Bondholders indignant as leisure group admits 1990 results were overstated

Brent Walker's annual loss revised to £359m

By MATTHEW BOND

LORD Kindersley, chairman of Brent Walker, said yesterday the leisure group had "materially overstated" its unaudited results for the six months to July 15, 1990.

Nicholas Ward, the managing director, said the board was not in a position to say by how much the profits had been overstated. "That is part of the serious fraud office investigation," he said.

Lord Kindersley called in

the SFO on Wednesday on the advice of the Bank of England, after an internal board review uncovered several irregularities in Brent Walker's past. KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, Brent Walker's auditor, recently completed a review of the 1990 interim.

Brent Walker's admission is likely to infuriate the holders of the company's £102 million convertible bonds, issued in October, because the circular

that detailed the bond issue used those results to demonstrate Brent Walker's present trading. The better-than-expected figures showed pre-tax profits rising by 52 per cent to £45.7 million.

Holders of the bonds include Lloyds, Jefferson Smurfit and Hambros Bank. Michael Smurfit, Jefferson Smurfit's chairman, also owns £10 million of the bonds personally. But the biggest holder, with £27 million worth, is George Walker, the company's founder and ousted chief executive.

Mr Walker, who is still a non-executive director, had nothing to say about the chairman's announcement.

The pronouncements by the board came as the company finally reported audited figures for 1990, more than three months after reporting unaudited figures for the 12-month period.

The new figures, which have been audited by KPMG Peat Marwick but not yet signed off by the board, wiped a further £200 million off Brent Walker's net assets, leaving the company with a negative net worth of £56 million. Brent Walker's net worth fell by a total of £885 million in 1990.

Lord Kindersley remained confident that Brent Walker's refinancing of its £1.4 billion of debt would not be affected. Standard Chartered, which leads the banking syndicate, is also confident the banks will stay in line to complete the refinancing.

The refinancing is conditional on the approval of the bondholders. Lord Kindersley said new proposals would be put to bondholders in the next fortnight. These proposals would involve bondholders waiving any right of legal redress they might have against the company.

Brent Walker's profit and loss account has also suffered further damage in the restated figures. May's pre-tax loss of £29 million is now restated as a £118 million loss, after exceptional items were increased from £88.1 million to £112 million. The increase is primarily due to a large rise in the provisions against development properties in places like Brighton Marina and Puerto Sherry in Spain from the £6 million reported in May to £72 million this time. Operating profits were also reduced by £15 million because a deal announced in April, to redistribute the assets owned by Walker Power, has not been completed.

Total losses after the restatement rose from £247 million to £359 million on a £20 million increase in extraordinary losses to £221 million. The extraordinary items include a £115 million loss on Brent Walker's media activities, most of which relate to Goldcrest, the film company bought for £25 million in 1987 and sold last year, apparently for £25 million. The Brent Walker board would not comment whether Goldcrest was one of the areas the SFO was investigating.

Of the additional £195 million in balance sheet write-offs, half relates to the board decision to follow the advice of Western Green & Smith, its external property adviser, which valued the company's development properties at £249 million, £103 million less than the directors' estimate used for May's figures.



Confident despite losses: (from left) Ken Scobie, chief executive, Lord Kindersley, chairman, and Nicholas Ward, managing director, yesterday

Lloyd's dismisses 1988 loss claim

By JONATHAN PRYNN

DAVID Coleridge, the chairman of Lloyd's of London, has dismissed a claim by the figures on the market's losses, produced on Thursday by Chartist, the independent publisher of Lloyd's League Tables. His remarks came on the final day for resignations from names who have decided to stop underwriting at the end of the year.

Mr Coleridge said: "Chartist's figures for the 1988 year and run offs were derived from a survey of less than 80 names. Lloyd's figures are based on a computer calculation carried out by the solvency and reporting department of the entire membership participating in the market during 1988."

The level of resignations, however, is expected to be sharply up on last year, when 2,200 left the market. Lloyd's official line is that up to 5,000 can be expected to resign, but it is also quoting a number of members' agents who have seen last-minute changes of heart among some of their names who have decided to trade through their 1988 and 1989 losses.

A more important factor



Coleridge figures "wrong" may be the number of names who are unable to meet the stiffer solvency requirements, which come into effect for all names this year. One leading commentator on Lloyd's estimated that up to 2,500 names may be forced to leave the market because of these requirements.

The official, final tally for the number of names remaining at Lloyd's in 1992 will not be known until much later in the year, however. They have until the October 31 deadline to demonstrate they can meet the solvency tests.

Airbus wins extra Northwest order

By ROSS TIEMAN

INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT
NORTHWEST Airlines has ordered ten more mini-jumbo A340 aircraft from Airbus Industrie, taking its total commitments for planes from the European consortium to almost \$10 billion.

The latest \$1.4 billion order, which includes four firm purchases of A340s and six options, confirms the position of the American carrier as Airbus's largest customer.

The order also highlights the attractions of the four-engine A340 against its principal American rival, the twin-engine Boeing 777. Northwest said it planned to operate the A340s on routes across the Pacific. Airbus says that the plane's four engines are more efficient than two on long-haul routes, and provide greater safety on flights over the sea.

British Aerospace, which is chaired by Professor Sir Roland Smith, and which builds the wings for all Airbus planes and holds a 20 per cent stake in the consortium, stands to gain at least \$280 million of work.

Total contracts for British companies from the latest round of Northwest orders



Sir Roland: \$280m of work will top \$350 million. The planes are expected to be powered by CFM56 engines made jointly by Snecma of France and General Electric of America.

Northwest will operate the A340, the largest aircraft in the Airbus stable, with only 251 seats, compared with a designed capacity of up to 440.

In total, Northwest has 30 ordered or taken options on A340s. Deliveries are scheduled to begin in 1993. Northwest is already operating 20 Airbus A320 planes, with 80 more on order, and is buying 30 A321s and 16 A330s.

Jupiter to take over Tyndall

By NEIL BENNETT

JUPITER Tarbut Merfin, the investment manager, is paying £34 million for Tyndall, the banking and investment group. The combined group, named Jupiter Tyndall, will control £1.3 billion in managed funds and cash deposits. Jupiter is offering cash and shares worth 61p for each Tyndall share. There is an all-cash alternative of 53p per share.

The offer had been expected since April, when Jupiter bought a 2.9 per cent stake in Tyndall. Tyndall's management announced that it was in bid talks. The move is the latest in a succession of deals for Jupiter which have allowed it to grow from nowhere in the past five years.

The company went public last March through a reverse takeover of Vantage Securities. Jupiter made a pre-tax profit of £549,000 on a pro forma basis in the first half of the year, its first results since it became public. The group is paying an interim dividend of 2p.

The merger marks the end of a disastrous period for Tyndall, during which it lost an estimated £115 million, almost all its shareholders' funds, in its Australian fund management arm, since sold. John Duffield, Jupiter's chairman, said his company had been drawn to Tyndall's two banks in London and the Isle of Man, which control deposits of £350 million.

He said the banks were sound since they used their assets in the wholesale money markets and incurred few bad debts.

Mr Duffield said Tyndall's banks have lost 8 per cent of their wholesale deposits since the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International and fears about the liquidity of some of the country's smaller banks.

He said, however, that the loss would have little impact on profits. He added: "We have looked closely at Tyndall since it has lost 90 per cent of its shareholders' funds and we do not want it to lose 90 per cent of ours."

ICI sets up agricultural projects in Ukraine

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

ICI, Britain's largest exporter to the Soviet Union, is to extend its activities in Ukraine with two agricultural projects after the republic's declaration of independence this week.

The company, whose trade with the Soviet Union totalled £100 million last year, yesterday announced a joint venture with the 40 Years October Farm, the largest in a collective of 300 farms around Kiev, the capital of Ukraine.

Under this venture, called Agroprominvest, ICI will provide know-how in practical agronomy and cropping systems throughout the farming collective. The additional yields will

be sold for hard currency, which will finance the import of essential modern farming equipment and agricultural inputs, including fertilisers. ICI hopes these new inputs will further improve efficiency.

ICI already had a consultancy arrangement with the 40 Years October Farm, which it claims helped the farm to double its yields of winter wheat and treble output of forage peas.

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Shake-up at Continental after loss

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

CONTINENTAL Bank, one of the few American banks to be nationalised after a record \$4.5 billion collapse in 1984, is back in the red.

It has cut its dividend by 40 cent, will take a \$175 million restructuring charge against profits, which will push third-quarter figures into a loss, resign as a primary dealer in the government securities market and cut between 250 and 300 jobs from its 5,000 workforce, many in London and Tokyo.

Just two months ago, the American government sold its remaining 26 per cent in the bank to the public for \$174 million, or \$12.75 per share. The price lost 75 cents to \$12.50 in early trading on Wall Street yesterday. The restructuring will refocus its business on the American domestic market.

Bad loan and credit losses for the \$25 billion bank will total \$803 million in the third quarter that ends today. The bank will make a net loss for the quarter when it reports on October 15. It has cut the quarterly dividend from 25 to 15 cents. Profits have been falling since 1988 when they peaked at \$315 million. They were \$75 million last year.

GA cuts policy benefits

By SARA MCCONNELL

GENERAL Accident has raised premiums by 20 per cent on the mortgage protection plans it underwrites for Abbey National customers and has cut most of the main benefits. Similar increases will be phased in over the next four months for customers of over 60 other lenders with policies underwritten by GA.

Mortgage protection insurance covers mortgage payments if the borrower is made redundant or cannot work through illness. Now the exclusion times before the Abbey Paymentcare policy will pay out have become longer and the number of payments made under the policy has decreased. Payouts for disability and unemployment will start 12 weeks after a claim has been made, instead of eight weeks. The number of monthly disability payments has been cut to 36 from 60.

GA blames a big increase in redundancy claims and the recession for the changes. Jim Hunter, manager creditor at GA, said: "If we had simply passed on a premium increase, we would have had to charge much more. We had to look at other ways of putting through the increase and a reduction in benefits was the most realistic."

The decrease in benefits will affect existing customers who bought the cover using the old schedule. Mr Hunter said: "They did not buy a specific level of benefits."

The Abbey National said it encouraged policyholders to take out the cover, introduced in May 1987, but it could not say how many of its 2 million borrowers had done so. Robert Langton, who has an Abbey National mortgage on his cottage in Oxfordshire, said: "I got a note saying the premium was going up but nowhere did they point out the reductions in benefits."

GA, which collects premiums on behalf of the Abbey National, admitted the reductions in benefits had not been spelled out. Mr Hunter said: "We tell people to keep their schedules and expect them to look at them and compare."

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'Relentless pursuit of profits' blamed for Japanese scandals

Banking bubble bursts with apologies

Tokyo - Three Japanese bank chiefs performed ritualised apologies before a parliamentary enquiry yesterday for their banks' roles in a web of scandals. But their remarkably similar words rang hollow to analysts hoping for fundamental changes.

The apologies were delivered before a special lower house panel investigating financial scandals born out of Japan's "bubble economy" of soaring stock and property markets in the Eighties.

Robert Zielinski, an analyst at Jardine Fleming, said: "It's ritual repentance... I think they want to get away with self-criticism and promises never to do it again. It's like a proxy for fundamental change."

Yo Kurosawa, president of the Industrial Bank of Japan, said: "We deeply regret betraying the public trust in us."

Toru Hashimoto, the Fuji Bank president, said: "We deeply apologise

for a series of scandals involving our bank."

Sotaro Tsumami, president of Sumitomo Bank, said: "I'd like to apologise for damaging public trust in Japan's financial industry."

The three banks are among the many financial institutions, including top brokerages, entangled in the scandals.

Mr Kurosawa faced persistent questioning on Thursday over why his bank lent massive amounts to an Osaka restaurant owner now under arrest on suspicion of using fraudulent documents to obtain the loans from Industrial Bank of Japan.

All he could do was admit that the bank's system of checking customer credit had, in this case, proved inadequate. "I deeply regret that we made abnormal loans to an individual because we did not observe the necessary prudence," Mr Kurosawa said.

As of end-October 1990, IBI had

lent 240 billion yen (£1 billion) to Nui Onaga, an Osaka restaurant owner with a penchant for stock market speculation. Rumours have also linked Ms Onaga to a crime syndicate, but Mr Kurosawa said the bank had no knowledge that she was involved with gangsters.

Most panel members appeared dissatisfied with Mr Kurosawa's replies. "I cannot understand and I am still puzzled why IBI lent so much money to such a person," said an opposition member.

Mr Tsumami and Mr Hashimoto said the root of the scandals was the relentless pursuit of profits. "It cannot be denied our excessive emphasis on profits made our men lose their sense of proper judgment," said Mr Tsumami.

Sumitomo - Japan's most profitable bank - has had its image tarnished by links to scandals, including dubious investments by former

executives of Itohan Corporation, the trading house, an advance into legitimate business by a crime syndicate boss, and the rise of a high-flying speculator under arrest on charges of share price manipulation and extortion.

Fuji has been tainted by the arrest of three former employees for allegedly forging documents worth more than \$1 billion used for loan collateral, and by its heavy exposure to an Osaka credit union now in financial difficulties.

Authorities, analysts say, have been serious about stamping out the excesses of the bubble economy revealed in the financial scandals. But with the market in a slump and the economy slowing, officials may hope the scandals will fade.

"The economy is coming up against the attack on the financial system. They have to get the attacks out of the way so that they can ease credit," Mr Zielinski said.

(Reuters)

Is Stein a good bet?

SR Gent in profit warning

SHARES IN SR Gent, a supplier of clothing to Marks & Spencer, fell 10p to 43p when Gent gave a warning that profits for the year to end-June would be in the region of £1 million before an extraordinary charge of about £2 million. Gent made £5 million in the previous year. The shares recovered to close at 49p. The board expects to recommend a final dividend of 0.75p (1.75p), making 2p, a reduction of 1p.

Sales in the second half became much more difficult as the trading climate continued to deteriorate, exacerbated by the increase in the rate of VAT. Gent is carrying out a review of its production resources, which is likely to result in the loss of a number of jobs and the closure of some manufacturing plants.

Sale in red
Sale Tilney, the troubled mini-conglomerate, has reduced its taxable loss from £3.9 million to £3.7 million for the half year to end-July. There is again no dividend. Andrew Coppel, group chief executive, said the extent of any recovery would depend on a tangible improvement in the economic environment.

SEET loss rises
Pre-tax losses at SEET, the Harris tweed manufacturer, jumped from £336,000 to £1.25 million in the year to the end of April. Once again, there is no dividend.

Ashcroft buys
Michael Ashcroft, the chairman of ADT, has acquired 300,000 ADT American Depository Receipts at an average price of \$8.46.

Shaw purchase
Arthur Shaw, the manufacturer of window fittings, is buying Knowles & Rissbrook, a maker of industrial fasteners, for £604,000 in cash.

Emap director
Elizabeth Rees-Jones, managing director of Murdoch Magazines for the past four years, has been appointed executive director of Emap Consumer Magazines.

Cadbury Schweppes shares rise as bid talk continues

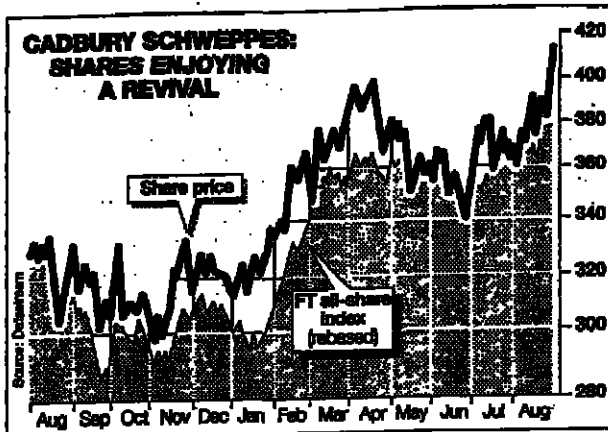
BUYING for the new account on Monday lifted Cadbury Schweppes, the confectionery and soft drinks group, 16p to 418p in a thin market as talk persisted that the group could soon be the target of a bid. That takes the rise on the week to 32p with a total of 5.6 million shares traded.

General Cinema built up an 18 per cent stake in the company a few years ago and, more recently, there have been claims that Suchard or Philip Morris, the American food and tobacco group, wanted to bid. There are signs, however, that the revival in the shares may be more fundamental

Two rights issues from P&O, up 4p to 581p, and Ladbrokes, 5p better at 284p, have alerted the City to the fact that a queue is forming. The market has been looking for others. British Aerospace heads the list, with the price falling 10p to 555p, after 550p, making a two-day loss of 21p.

after they were overlooked during the market's recent record-breaking run.

Interim pre-tax profits, expected on September 11, are forecast to rise from £104.7 million to £110 million. Bask-



CADBURY SCHWEPES: SHARES ENJOYING A REVIVAL

ing in the reflected glory, United Biscuits rose 11p to 409p.

The rest of the equity market ended the three week trading account on a firm note with the FT-SE 100 index advancing 7.5 to an all-time closing high of 2,645.7 - a rise on the account of 48.3. The past three weeks will be stamped on investors' minds for some time after the events in Russia pushed share prices in London down 5 per cent at one stage, before recovering their composure and going on to better things.

Dealers are now eagerly awaiting the new account and forecasting that the index will breach the 2,650 mark quickly, helped by another

Newcastle eased 1p to 410p as a line of 1.4 million shares came on offer.

Boddington, the pubs and nursing homes group, held steady at 162p after paying £6 million for Hey (UK), the drinks wholesaler. Earlier this year, Boddington disposed of its brewing interests.

Brest Walker, the troubled property and leisure group, slipped 2p to 18p after announcing it had revised operating profits downwards.

Standard Chartered, the international banking group, fell 4p to 373p, despite learning that Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat, the Malaysian business-

WPP Group, the debt-laden advertising agency, was a nervous market in late trading, touching 92p before closing 7p lower 195p. Dealers blamed a large seller for the setback. Panmure Gordon, the broker, is believed to have placed 2 million shares with various institutions at about 85p.

man, had been quietly topping up his holding with the purchase of an extra 2.37 million shares, taking his total holding in the company to 28.2 million shares, or 12.06 per cent.

Elsewhere, Grand Metropolitan rose 3p to 829p while Whitbread A slipped 2p to 495p and Scottish &

Weaker bonds send Dow lower

New York
BLUE chips showed small losses in morning trading, weighed down by weak bonds that suffered from profit-taking and a higher-than-expected rise in the leading American economic indicators for July.

The Dow Jones industrial average was two points lower at 3,047.64. The difference between falling and rising shares was less than 100 issues.

Prices closed broadly higher on hopes for easier credit, but were slightly below the day's highs as pre-weekend caution sent investors to the sidelines in late trading. The Nikkei index rose 333.70 points, or 1.52 per cent, to 22,335.87. The Nikkei has gained 270.53 points on the week.

Hang Kong - Shares ended firmer in sluggish trading dominated by buying of selected blue chips which sent the Hang Seng index up 38.03 points to 3,998.26.

Frankfurt - The market ended to slightly lower in quiet, end-of-the-month trading, although there was a smattering of buying in a number of blue chips. The Dax index fell 5 points to 1,650.50.

(Reuters)

Aug 30		Aug 29		Aug 28		Aug 27		Aug 26		Aug 25		Aug 24		Aug 23	
Abbott Lab		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Admiral		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Aldi		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Allstate		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amgen		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
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Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99
Amstar		100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97	100	99	98	97		

Banks muddy the cost of credit

Working out whether it is cheaper to buy something using a credit card, a personal loan or an overdraft is next to impossible for anyone who does not have a first in maths, and an understanding of the different charging methods. Comparing different credit cards is no easier.

The annual percentage rate of charge, which is intended to show the true cost of a loan, no longer reveals which card will work out most expensive.

Now that National Westminster, the last of the big four banks, has announced it is to charge an annual fee, the real cost of the panoply of cards available ought to be clearer for customers to work out. Unfortunately, it has become muddier.

Two cards with identical APRs can charge different amounts of interest for identical spending. If a bank street lender was to confuse in this way, he would receive a visit from trading standards officers. When it is the high street banks, we are told it is the result

of extensive surveys into what customers really want.

NatWest is now giving customers not only the choice of five different coloured plastic cards, but in doing so it is introducing a different method of charging for the three new cards. Customers of the original Access and Visa cards will continue to pay interest, if they use their cards to borrow, from the statement date. The new cards will charge interest from the date the transaction hits the customer's account. This can involve up to an extra month of interest being charged.

From October, Lloyds Bank will adopt the new instant method of charging, but it will not have to increase the APR quoted. Customers will just have to pay more. Barclays, Midland, and the Halifax changed their charging methods when they introduced charges. TSB, which has no



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

annual fee, also starts logging up the interest from when the purchase reaches the account.

The banks say the fault does not lie with the new calculations, which are an honest representation of costs. It is the way APRs are worked out that makes the original system look more expensive than it actually is. The interest-free period is not counted in the sums, but it costs the card issuers a lot of money.

Cardholders considering a change need to ask when the interest starts to be charged. It is also worth noting how expensive

they have been in recent years and how quickly they acted to reduce interest rates.

NatWest customers tempted by the half-price £6 fee of the new primary card only have a chance of winning on the annual cost if they always pay off every month in full. High spenders opting for the £25 Visa Gold card, with an APR of four percentage points lower, will also have to take care that their timing does not land them with a bigger annual bill than they would have paid by staying put.

Guidelines from the Office of

Fair Trading on working out the cost of credit suggest borrowers should compare the total amounts they will have to pay.

If the banks and credit companies really want their customers to understand what they are paying, then a new, simpler way of expressing the interest rate needs to be devised. In the meantime, those cardholders who are no good at mental arithmetic are better off paying their bills in full each month.

Saving grace

The Abbey National's continuing recommendation to its customers to change from a Five Star account paying lower interest to the better value Instant Saver account is encouraging at a time when many bank customers are rightly feeling dis-

illusioned with the cavalier way they are treated by their banks. The Nationwide has justifiably come under fire for not telling customers of a new account paying a better rate, then insisting that those moving to the new account had to wait 90 days.

The ultimate gesture from the Abbey would have been to write to all its Five Star customers telling them about the new account, when it was launched last October. Unfortunately, most customers are so used to junk mail that important information is often thrown away. The next best thing is to make sure the rates on the new account are displayed prominently in the branch and that staff are well informed and can recommend the change, both of which the Abbey has done. Ensuring that people are told of the new account when interest on the Five Star falls due, and they come into the branch to update their passbooks, is a good move to catch those people who do not visit their branches often.

Substantial gains await investors

Small societies are ripe for merger windfalls

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE next few months should see a spate of building society mergers, with the potential for substantial windfall gains for investors and mortgage discounts for borrowers.

There has been a lull in the steady reduction in the number of building societies over the past few months, although conditions for smaller societies have become worse, making mergers inevitable for some. Up to ten mergers could be announced by the end of the year, according to building society sources.

Last year began with more than 100 societies vying for mortgage and savings business. By this summer the number had slimmed down to about 90. Further cuts are expected as smaller- and medium-sized societies are forced to consider whether they can have a future on their own.

Acquisitive larger societies may also be keen to bolster their position in the league table.

Since the beginning of last year the Cheltenham & Gloucester, at number six in the league table, has taken over six societies and tried to take over the Frome & Sedwood, which was already promised to the Stroud & Swindon. The Bradford & Bingley, at number eight, has taken over five societies, the last being the Leamington Spa.

On each occasion, investors in the smaller society received a bonus of up to 5 per cent. However, if a reluctant large society felt obliged to rescue a sickly, smaller society there is unlikely to be much cash to hand out to investors.

The Leeds Permanent, at number five, said in May that it was "in the market to expand its operations by merging with smaller societies". It put up standby funding for the Cheshunt and was widely expected to merge with it, but was pipped by the Bristol & West, at number ten, which announced its marriage

to the Hertfordshire society in June.

Talks continue all the time between societies about possible mergers. Those smaller societies with strong reserves and prime high street sites are frequently courted. Until now they have not been interested. But the disastrous economic climate for small societies, particularly in the Southeast, is likely to change that.

The large societies have increased their share of both the mortgage and savings market over the past 18 months. Without a dramatic upturn in the housing market — and none is expected — many societies which have shunned the idea of merger will seriously have to consider approaches before the end of the year.

Among these are the societies that made modest provisions last year for mortgage arrears and have since seen the number of borrowers in trouble increase substantially. As they approach their year-ends, they will be making calculations to see whether the much greater provisions they will have to make for 1991 are going to outstrip their profits for the year. When the Leamington Spa was in this position at the beginning of the year the Building Societies Commission made it clear that merger was the best solution.

Small societies have seen reduced profits in a difficult market. Small- and medium-sized societies cannot compete with the discounts being offered by the largest lenders to first-time buyers and those borrowing more than £60,000. Some mortgage lenders are offering loans at 1.5 per cent below bank base rates. Small

societies have always had to pay a little more to attract retail funds and have tended to lend it on at a higher rate to people wanting to borrow more than their salary or background would normally allow. That type of business is now frowned upon by the Building Societies Commission, whose capital requirements now ensure there is proper backing for riskier loans if they should turn bad.

They have also been squeezed on savings by postal accounts offered by larger societies. Previously, investors had been prepared to deal by post with small, relatively unknown societies to get the returns. Now they do not have to.

The introduction of an £18,000 ceiling for compensation under the building societies statutory scheme has also hit some of the smaller societies. While the scheme has never had to pay out and no one in living memory has lost money from a building society, the limit of 90 per cent of the first £20,000 of each individual's savings makes some investors nervous. Some have spread their savings around. Others moved to the bigger names.

The failure of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International last month has done most damage to small banks. It must also have reduced the inflow to small societies offering attractive rates. Potential customers are now nervous of placing money with organisations they do not know anything about and where they cannot have access to their money in the high street.

Ministers have also hammered home the message that

'Without a dramatic upturn in the housing market many societies will have to consider approaches'



Halifax eschews aggravation of amalgamation

THE largest society, the Halifax, is unlikely to be on the merger trail. Its last merger was 15 years ago and the circumstances were unusual. It took over the Wakefield in 1976 when fraudulent losses were discovered and the society needed rescuing (Lindsay Cook writes).

The Halifax Permanent Benefit Building and Investment Society was recognised as the largest society in 1913, without absorbing a single society. In 1928, it merged with the Halifax Equitable, which was then the second largest.

Since then, it has undertaken just five mergers: in 1957, 1959, 1970, 1973 and 1976. The Halifax takes the view that it is not worth the aggravation of a merger for what might only be the equivalent of a few days' savings inflow or mortgage business.

The Nationwide, the second

largest society, has grown by mergers. It is an amalgam of more than 80 societies. The last merger took place in 1987 when Nationwide and Anglia joined forces.

Among its most vociferous members are those who were originally customers of the Co-operative Permanent Building Society. Other names also lost within the society are the Ramsgate Cinque Ports Permanent Benefit, the Birmingham Ebenezer, Effra Mutual Benefit, Scottish Amicable, Slough & Eton Benefit and Royal Benefit.

The Abbey National, which was formed from the Abbey, Road and National Building Societies in 1944, also absorbed five other societies in total. These included the Highgate Building Society, the Oak Co-operative and the Definite Permanent Building Society. It converted to a bank in 1989.

ANNOUNCEMENT

FULL £6,000 PEP FROM M&G

The M&G Group expects to launch in September/October 1991 a full £6,000 PEP linked to an investment trust to be managed by M&G with an investment policy aiming for above average and growing income. In addition to having direct access into the investment trust, investors will be able to contribute up to a full £6,000 to their PEP for the tax year 1991/92.

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NO SALESMAN WILL CALL

Mr/Ms/Miss	INITIALS	SURNAME
ADDRESS		
POSTCODE		
		RCJJ

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THE M&G FULL £6,000 PEP

The tell-tale signs of a target

TARGETING societies likely to merge and pay a bonus is not easy. There are often, however, tell-tale signs. Logical moves that would fill the gaps in the networks of large societies can often be spotted (Lindsay Cook writes).

When the Peckham was taken over by the Cheltenham & Gloucester last year, one of the reasons given for the merger was that the C&G had wanted a branch in Redhill, Surrey, for some time.

C&G, the sixth largest, still needs more offices in south London and Kent. This could put the 13-branch Lambeth within its sights. Thirty-third in the league table, the society has assets approaching £500 million, and its reserves to assets ratio was a healthy 10.1 per cent at the end of last year, almost double the C&G's 5.32 per cent. Bonuses are usually given to even out the difference between the two figures and in such a marriage a bonus of about 4.5 per cent might be expected.

The City & Metropolitan, based in Bromley, Kent, has four branches and assets of £82 million. Its reserves to assets ratio is 7.95 per cent. The 13-branch Kent Reliance, in Chatham, might also fit snugly into the C&G network. Its reserves to assets ratio, though, is only 0.5 per cent higher than the larger society, so there is little opportunity for a large bonus.

Another feature of societies involved in mergers is that they often offer a winning account. The Sheffield, which merged with the Bradford & Bingley last summer, had been renowned for the attractive interest rates on its children's account. The Peckham paid a high return on its instant access account, as did the Wessex, which merged with the Portman, which early last year merged with the Regency & West of England under the Portman name.

This means that investors looking for merger candidates can also get an attractive return while they wait. The Lambeth currently pays 12.2 per cent gross on its two-year account requiring a minimum investment of £500. The City & Metropolitan is offering 11.4 per cent gross and 8.74 net on its 90-day account on sums over £25,000.

The Bradford & Bingley will take a little time to digest the Leamington Spa, with which it merged last month. The B&B has gaps in the Southeast that it has been trying to fill by opening new branches. This is, however, an expensive way to build market share.

The Leeds Permanent came unstuck when it tried to merge with the Town & Country and the Leeds & Holbeck in the Eighties.

It may choose to keep to smaller societies in its growth plans and could

also feel the need for more branches in the Southeast.

The National Counties, based in Epsom, Surrey, has a reserves to assets ratio of 20.8 per cent. It is the prime prize for any predator society, with no branches and assets of more than £300 million. It is paying 12.15 per cent gross or 9.11 per cent net on £20,000, and more in its 90-day account.

Other societies with high reserves to assets ratios include the £83 million Mansfield (14.54 per cent); the £39 million Penrith (11.78 per cent); the £105 million Teachers' (9.9 per cent); the £45 million Earl Shilton (9.57 per cent); the £43 million Chorley and the £43 million Bath Investment (both 8.8 per cent); and the £140 million Barnsley (8.4 per cent).

Another indicator that merger talks are well advanced is a society becoming quiet when previously it has launched lots of products. The current market has silenced many. Among the larger societies, Town & Country and Chelsea both the subject of bid rumours in the past, have been hushed over the past 18 months.

The most successful mergers involve a large society taking on a much smaller one. To fit, they should not have too many high streets in which they both have a branch or the merger will not bring about the desired increase in market share.

Portfolio
PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 31).

Sec	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	+0	+6	+2	+2	+8		
2	+0	+8	+2	+8	+3		
3	+0	+8	+2	+4	+6		
4	+0	+6	+2	+3	+5		
5	+0	+7	+3	+8	+4		
6	+0	+8	+1	+5	+2		
7	+0	+7	+6	+2	+3		
8	+0	+8	+1	+3	+5		
9	+0	+7	+9	+4	+3		
10	+0	+9	+4	+1	+4		
11	+0	+7	+4	+2	+4		
12	+0	+6	+4	+3	+4		
13	+0	+7	+3	+3	+3		
14	+0	+7	+2	+6	+3		
15	+0	+8	+1	+2	+4		
16	+0	+6	+2	+4	+3		
17	+0	+4	+2	+4	+6		
18	+0	+8	+3	+3	+4		
19	+0	+8	+2	+5	+2		
20	+0	+4	+1	+4	+5		
21	+0	+8	+4	+4	+5		
22	+0	+7	+3	+5	+3		
23	+0	+7	+3	+3	+2		
24	+0	+7	+2	+8	+1		
25	+0	+8	+1	+2	+5		
26	+0	+8	+4	+3	+8		
27	+0	+8	+5	+2	+3		
28	+0	+8	+2	+6	+2		
29	+0	+8	+1	+3	+5		
30	+0	+8	+2	+7	+2		
31	+0	+8	+3	+5	+5		
32	+0	+9	+3	+7	+1		
33	+0	+8	+4	+2	+2		
34	+0	+4	+1	+2	+4		
35	+0	+8	+1	+3	+4		
36	+0	+8	+4	+1	+3		
37	+0	+8	+1	+7	+2		
38	+0	+6	+5	+3	+4		
39	+0	+7	+2	+5	+4		
40	+0	+8	+3	+1	+2		
41	+0	+8	+1	+3	+5		
42	+0	+5	+3	+3	+4		
43	+0	+7	+4	+2	+3		
44	+0	+9	+3	+6	+2		

Share information lines
closed for breach of code

By SARA MCCONNELL

A COMPANY that wrote to shareholders in Amstrad, the consumer electronics group, encouraging them to use an expensive telephone line to obtain information on their shares has been asked to shut the recorded message service.

The Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services (Ictis) said the City Information Bureau's message to Amstrad shareholders constituted "misleading advertising".

Another line to Tottenham Hotspur shareholders has also been closed and a third, to Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN) shareholders, is being investigated.

The City Information Bureau bought shareholders' registers from the registrars of the companies and sent letters to the names on the lists. Shareholders' registers are publicly available and can be bought and sold freely.

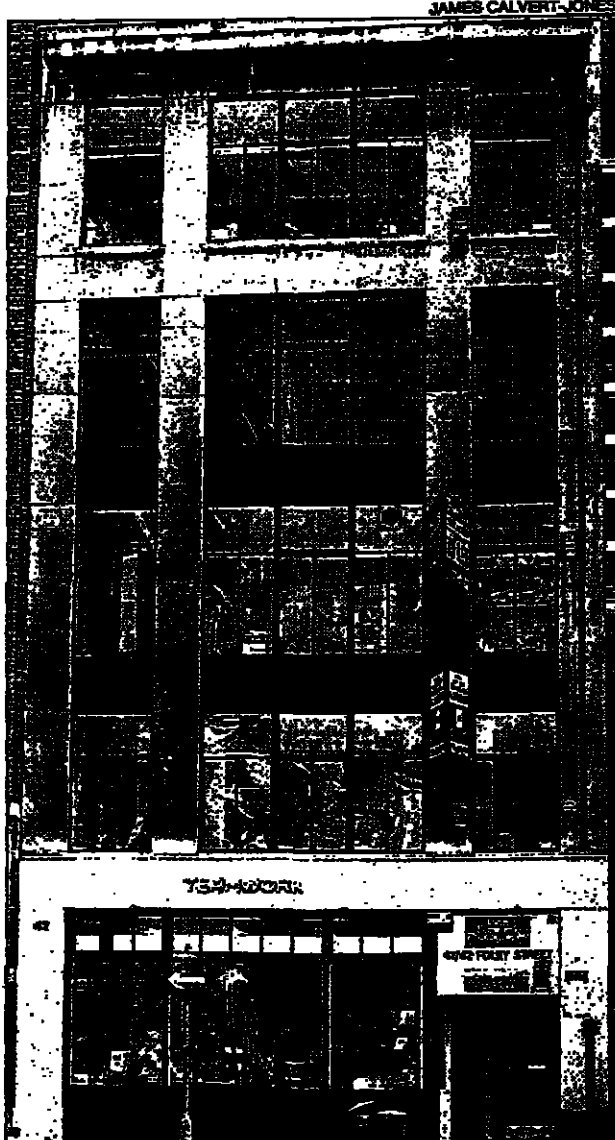
The City Information Bureau has rented part of the fourth floor of an office block in Foley Street in London's West End. But there is no nameplate on the door and the company has no telephone listing.

The letter from the City Information Bureau to MGN shareholders said: "There have been recent developments within the above company and we have news of this and background which may affect the value of your shareholding."

Shareholders were told to dial an 0898 number for further information. The letter was signed by M Bateman, described on the letterhead as the proprietor. Amstrad shareholders received a similarly worded letter with a different 0898 number.

The 0898 code is used for BT's premium-rate services. The charge for calls to these lines is 45p per minute between 9am and 6pm and 33p per minute at other times.

MGN shareholders who called the number and listened to the 14-minute message would have run up a telephone bill of £6.30 at peak time and £4.62 off-peak. The renter of the 0898 number would earn 26p a minute, or £3.64 of this payment, at whatever time the call was made. City Information Bureau rented the line from Clubcall, part of the Ladbroke Group, and it is unclear how



Office space: City Information Bureau has rented part of the fourth floor of a Foley Street building

the money from the line was divided up.

Amstrad has 30,000 shareholders and Tottenham Hotspur just under 10,000. The Mirror Group declined to give a figure.

BT said: "Anyone can rent an 0898 line subject to the normal business checks. We have to supply lines to those who want them and there is rarely a reason for not supplying lines."

Those signing a contract with BT for an 0898 line agree to abide by a code of practice, monitored by Ictis. If they breach the code, the committee first asks the renter of the line to remove the service. If this is not done, the committee recommends to BT that the line is withdrawn.

Ictis said: "We have been investigating the MGN line for five days and we are certainly in correspondence with Clubcall, who rented the line directly. We have had about ten complaints. The Amstrad and Spurs lines were both found to be in breach of the code of conduct, for misleading advertising. They also broke technical rules governing the requirements of specialist services."

The MGN recording is the only one of the three still operating. After a disclaimer that the company was not authorised to give information on buying and selling shares, the City Information Bureau promised to give "straightforward facts in simple language, as we don't want to bog you down with technical jargon."

The message continued: "MGN is a well-managed publishing company with a range of newspapers including the *Daily Mirror* and *The Sporting Life*, the Queen Mother's favourite newspaper."

And it added: "What better man could be in charge than Robert Maxwell?" He is described as a brilliant businessman with a great understanding of the economy.

It accused newspapers and city analysts of "anti-MGN rivalry" and said shares were "a must for anyone seeking capital growth, although they will perform at a discount to the general market because of Maxwell's majority holding."

"All our reports are based on unbiased opinion and we do not hold shares in any public company," the recording said.

A spokesman for MGN said in a statement: "MGN has absolutely nothing to do with whoever is behind this recorded message. We are in touch with Ictis."

Amstrad's legal department wrote a letter of protest on July 25 to the City Information Bureau and also put the matter before the trade department, the Securities and Investments Board and Ofel, the telecommunications watchdog.

Amstrad said: "We didn't feel that the phrasing of the letter distanced itself enough from the company and did not make clear that we had nothing to do with it and were not involved. The recorded message was very bland but we suggested in our letter that it contained some errors."

The City Information Bureau told Amstrad in a presentation two months ago that the average call to 0898 numbers lasted eight minutes. This would cost £3.60 at peak times and £2.64 at other times. City Information Bureau has not responded to requests for information.

Lower rates on offer
to investors who
take monthly income

BUILDING society and bank savers wanting to use monthly interest from their accounts as income are almost certain to be paid a lower rate than those whose interest is reinvested or who are paid half-yearly or annually (Sara McConnell writes).

Savers could, however, obtain a better deal on monthly interest from some of the smaller societies.

Customers of some societies can choose to have income paid monthly or annually on a 90-day notice account. The monthly rates quoted often assume, however, that interest will be reinvested and "earn interest on itself every month."

At the Halifax and the Skipton building societies, monthly interest is transferred into either another account at the society or another bank account. The rate does not assume reinvestment so there is a lower nominal rate and the monthly rate is not linked to the half-yearly rate.

The Halifax offers a monthly income version of its 90-Day Xtra account. It pays 7.54 per cent net, 10.05 gross, on balances of £10,000. The half-yearly interest rate on the same balance in the account is 7.76 per cent net, 10.35 per cent gross.

David Roberts, controller of savings and investment at the Halifax, said: "We invite people to go into this account on the basis that they require income monthly and not because it is a method of getting a better rate."

"We don't link the monthly income rate to the half-yearly rate and we expect Halifax customers to compare our monthly income option with other monthly options."

The Leeds Permanent offers the option of monthly or annual interest payments on



its Solid Gold 90-day notice account.

Balances of £10,000 with interest paid monthly would earn 7.59 per cent net, 10.12 per cent gross. The same balance would earn an annual rate of 7.95 per cent net, 10.6 per cent gross. Balances of £25,000 would earn 8.03 per cent net, 10.71 per cent gross, monthly, and 8.44 per cent net, 11.25 per cent gross, annually.

David Andrew, the Leeds' head of savings, said: "The monthly rate is calculated on the basis that if the customer reinvests all the interest into the account, their total income for the full year is the same as they would get from a single annual payment."

The Abbey National operates a similar system. It works out monthly rates on its 90-day notice investment account so that if all the interest is reinvested, the customer

would receive interest equivalent to the annual rate at the end of the year. A balance of £10,000 in the account would earn monthly interest of 7.62 per cent net over the year. A balance of £25,000 would pay 7.83 per cent net, 10.44 per cent gross, on a monthly basis.

The Abbey National said that in common with other banks and building societies it was keen to keep investors' money in savings accounts rather than have it used as income.

Gordon Jolly, assistant general manager at the Skipton, said monthly interest accounts were "less of a public thing" than the popular instant access 90-day accounts paying interest annually.

The monthly interest version of the Skipton's 90-day notice account pays 7.65 per cent net, 10.2 per cent gross, on balances of between £2,000 and £25,000. The annual interest version of Skipton 90 pays 8.175 per cent net, 10.9 per cent gross, on balances of between £500 and £25,000.

Savers will not lose out by choosing an account where the interest is not compounded over one where it is, said Cathryn Deane, editor of *Building Society Choice* magazine. However, the rates for monthly interest will always be set lower than annual interest.

Smaller societies offering the best monthly interest rates include the Leeds & Holbeck, whose Capital Bond 90-day notice account pays 8.51 per cent net, 11.34 per cent gross, on balances of £10,000 and over.

The Standard Building Society pays 8.33 per cent net, 11.10 per cent gross, on its 90-day account, while those with a minimum of £50,000 can earn 8.96 per cent net, 11.95 per cent gross, in the Chorley & District's Fortress share account.

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in July 1991.

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
January	—	0.820	0.541	0.467	0.390
February	—	0.813	0.534	0.455	0.385
March	0.884	0.810	0.530	0.442	0.383
April	0.851	0.547	0.509	0.412	0.370
May	0.839	0.581	0.504	0.405	0.367
June	0.835	0.577	0.500	0.402	0.368
July	0.834	0.569	0.502	0.405	0.372
August	0.834	0.582	0.488	0.401	0.368
September	0.835	0.555	0.485	0.402	0.361
October	0.827	0.549	0.476	0.400	0.359
November	0.819	0.544	0.471	0.395	0.348
December	0.822	0.540	0.472	0.383	0.345
1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	
January	0.338	0.285	0.205	0.120	0.028
February	0.333	0.280	0.197	0.113	0.022
March	0.330	0.285	0.191	0.102	0.018
April	0.314	0.285	0.171	0.070	0.005
May	0.313	0.280	0.183	0.080	0.002
June	0.313	0.255	0.159	0.058	nil
July	0.314	0.254	0.158	0.055	—
August	0.310	0.240	0.155	0.044	—
September	0.307	0.227	0.149	0.035	—
October	0.300	0.222	0.139	0.027	—
November	0.294	0.216	0.129	0.029	—
December	0.295	0.213	0.125	0.030	—

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THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 31 1991

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SPOT RATES

1.2732-1.2743
12.24-12.26
35.85-35.90
1.1413-1.1418

6.7400-6.7500
5.9400-5.9450
1.7600-1.7510
7.7500-7.7500

1.5300-1.5315
7300.5-1301.5
136.90-137.00

2.7825-2.7855
1.9700-1.9710
6.8250-6.8350
148.70-148.75

1.7225-1.7245
108.75-108.95
6.3400-6.3500
1.8000-1.8000

297.486% received:
210.0676% last wk

ES

Low	Close	Volume
23.0	2574.0	3862
24.0	2574.0	3862

27.20.5	314
2764.0	0
31	89.33
34	89.86
	5118
	4584

01	90.04	832
28	94.50	1756
98	94.01	2573

71	90.71	2250
88	90.89	6064
92	98-05	1532
93	98-15	

82-10	827
83-27	2538
84-08	10833

98	97.50	11
99	98.00	235
77	84.86	33200
90	88.05	12062

15	90.16	43
24	90.26	140

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197 (+1)

197 (n/c)
203 (+3)
73 (+1)

213 (+1)

199.50-89.00
192.25 B10
186.00 B10

Vol: 7549
20.35-20.45

Vol n/a

Close: 1645
1685
1715
1718

10
rest: 3000
12

MEMO DATED

Bid	Offer
137.70	138.20

138.80 139.60
139.40 140.40
Vol: 290

Year	Percentage of population aged 65 and over
1950	10
1960	11
1970	12
1980	13
1990	14
2000	15
2010	16
2020	17
2030	17.5
2040	18
2050	18

100

Apprentice
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Krabbe glides to second success

Eccentrics in way of marathon disaster

Spaniard steps up chase for European Open title that has so far eluded him

Ballesteros rises to the challenge

By MITCHELL PLATTS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

SEVERIANO Ballesteros responded to the incentive of trying to win one of the few titles to escape his grasp over the years by moving into a challenging position for the GA European Open when he returned a second round of 70 over the composite course at Walton Heath yesterday.

It was a typically adventurous performance by the flamboyant Spaniard, albeit that the hard fairways and greens made it difficult at times to judge the bounce and pace of the greens.

Ballesteros enjoys such a test simply because he knows that in these conditions he has the game to manufacture winning shots, so taking the pressure off the putter.

His desire to win has also been heightened because of his own failure to win a title that has always been played on courses which call for a full repertoire of shots such as Royal Liverpool, Sunningdale and Turnberry.

That leaves a conspicuous space in the trophy cupboard that he so cherishes, although he improved the possibility of filling it with a round which included one eagle and four birdies.

The paradox of Ballesteros is that as hard as he drives himself on as an individual, determined to make his own go at the expense of tournament rivals, there is no finer team man when it comes to the Ryder Cup.

That explains the urgency with which he has addressed in recent days the forthcoming match with the United States. He has criticised Bernard Langer's decision to take in a Japanese event en route to Kiawah Island and insisted that Paul Broadhurst and David Gifford should play in the BC Open the week before the match, which both players are indeed now trying to do.

Sam Torrance's description of Ballesteros that he is "an incredible source of energy to

CARD OF HOLES					
Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	442	4	10	371	4
2	521	5	11	528	4
3	461	4	12	456	4
4	474	4	13	486	4
5	494	5	14	486	4
6	494	5	15	408	4
7	389	4	16	475	4
8	389	4	17	475	4
9	189	3	18	430	4
Out	3,457	36	In	3,764	36
Total yardage: 7,101					

Lewis has to settle for second best in a long-jump competition that brings further distinction to the world championships

Powell makes a great leap for mankind

From DAVID MILLER
IN TOKYO

THE greatest athlete of his generation yesterday had to accept second best to the most historic performance of these third world championships. Yet, the falling of Bob Beamon's 23-year-old long-jump record, the oldest individual record on the books, to Mike Powell — a record set at altitude in Mexico City when Powell was five years old and Carl Lewis was seven — embraced a breathtaking competition between the present-day rivals.

Powell's leap of 8.95 metres (29ft 4½in) was for me one of the sporting experiences of a lifetime: never mind for him. "Oh boy!" Powell said, with awe, as he entered a press interview-room jammed to the walls with several hundred writers. And then, repeatedly at intervals between questions: "I'm just happy."

He was entitled to be. At the moment of realising he had won, Powell had spontaneously embraced the jumping-board judge.

He had triumphed over the most famous of all records and over maybe the most famous



of all athletes, the man of whom this achievement had been expected and long awaited. The status of Lewis, magnified by his 100 metres record five days ago, enhanced the feat of Powell.

When Beamon jumped 8.90 metres, at 2,248 metres (7,375ft) above sea level and some 57cm (22½in) longer than he had jumped before, at 10,400m London time, I was on the late-night editorial desk of ATV, and could only goggle at the screen with millions of others.

It was no contest. Klaus Beer, of East Germany, was 71cm (28¼in) behind for the silver medal. What was almost unbelievable about the sequence here yesterday, as a full house sat riveted, was that Lewis, unbeaten since February 1981 in 65 competitions — the longest winning streak in athletics — jumped the four longest jumps in history, in any condition, after Powell and the altitude performances

of Beamon, and Robert Emmiyan, of the Soviet Union, in 1987 at Tsakhkadzor.

If Powell's jump was phenomenal, so too was the sequence of the double Olympic and double world champion. Lewis began with 8.68, then had a foul, and followed with 8.83, 8.91 (wind +2.9mps), 8.87, and 8.94. Powell, in a private agony of suspense after his spectacular fifth jump, timed the interval until Lewis stripped for his final sixth jump and setting off down the runway: a seemingly endless five-and-a-half minutes. "Deep inside, I thought Carl could jump nine metres," Powell said.

Lewis had beaten Powell by a centimetre in the national championships in New York this summer, with his last jump, 8.64 metres. When Lewis cleared 8.91 metres on his fourth attempt, though wind-assisted, everybody but Powell believed the competition must be over. Powell, the silver medal winner in Seoul, was still telling himself he would win.

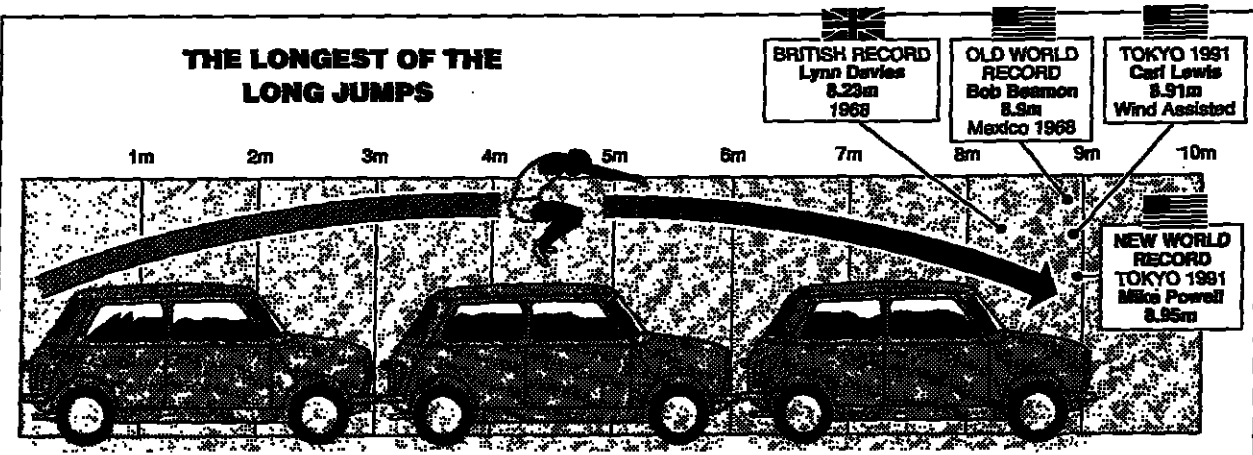
Yet, on his first jump yesterday he had been so tense

that going down the run-up he could hardly breathe and cleared only 7.85 metres. "Just relax," he said to himself.

"The facilities [track surface] are the best ever," Powell said. "I'm not as fast as Larry [Myricks, the 35-year-old bronze medal winner], Carl, but if I feel fast I can pretend." He looked happy again. As a high school student he was a basketball player and high jumper, clearing 2.19 metres. But going to Irvine College in 1981, he switched to long jumping two years later.

Considering that ten months ago Lewis had knee surgery and was on crutches, his own performance at the age of 30 was astonishing. "Physically, I'm the best I've ever been," this athletic magician reflected. "The best mechanically, in both the 100 and the long jump. Mike had one great jump and deserved to win, but I never thought I could jump so far and lose." Imagine it: three times beyond 29ft and still defeated.

Roger Black, page 33
Crum falls, page 33
Krabbe's double, page 33



All-round Oregon man

From DAVID MILLER

IF MIKE Powell and Carl Lewis are the marvels of the moment, then Dan O'Brien, a 25-year-old American from Oregon who has no idea who were his natural parents, is the phenomenon of the future. One error, in the high jump, prevented his eclipse of Daley Thompson's seven-year-old world decathlon record.

O'Brien failed by 36 points to beat Thompson's total of 8,847 at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Thompson himself has recently predicted that O'Brien can surpass 9,500 points, and watching him these past two days, more lissom and streamlined than Thompson, that has seemed a real possibility. Had O'Brien not ploughed the high jump, the fourth event — clearing only 1.91 metres compared with a best competition performance of 2.13, a difference of some 180 points — the record would already be his.

It might still have been. With the final event to be run,

1,500 metres, O'Brien, of mixed Afro-Scandinavian blood and adopted aged two from a Portland agency by white parents, needed only to improve his best time of 4min 33sec by a second to surpass Thompson.

"Going into the race, my mind was in a whirlwind," O'Brien, who has no previous competition outside the United States, said. "Up to now, I've just taken the 1,500 as one of the ten events. From

now on, it's something I'll take seriously, really work at next year and get a good time."

He was happy it rained at the close of this furious contest, he said, cooling the air, because "it took away some of the pain." Yet, like the magnificent Thompson, he was still on his feet at the finish as others around him lay sprawled on the track insensible.

Like Thompson, a rebel at school, and still paying back

now \$5,000 he owes the University of Idaho for an accommodation fiddle, O'Brien has the same almost luminous aura of healthiness that flowed from the Scottish-Nigerian at his peak. The all-round athlete has to have the ability to do anything, and O'Brien looks as if he can: almost as good as Thompson in the opening two events, 100 metres and long jump — Thompson's best — and already better in another five: a heroic figure in the best American Olympic tradition first set by Jim Thorpe in 1912 and continued by Osborne (1924), Bausch (1932), Morris (1936), Mathias (1948) and 1952), Campbell (1956), Johnson (1960), Toomey (1968) and Jenner (1976).

Until yesterday, O'Brien could not even get a shoe contract, and was working part-time in a golf shop to pay his debt. From today he will be able to start naming his price. It might even mean, in the odd way life turns, that his real mother and father might identify themselves.

Female can compete

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — A male athlete who has undergone a sex change operation will be permitted to continue competing in women's long distance events, according to Australian officials.

"After a lot of investigation and discussion, we have accepted that this person is a woman and she is free to compete in female events," Neil King, general manager of Athletics Australia, said.

The issue of transsexual athletes was discussed at the International Amateur Athletic Federation congress in Tokyo last week. The IAAF opted not to make a firm decision on its gender identification policy.

The first round of the men's 4 x 400 metres relay in Tokyo was cancelled because of insufficient entries. The teams will go straight into today's semi-finals.



Leaping into the record books: Mike Powell, above, launches himself for the long jump gold medal and a world record at Tokyo yesterday, and, below, savours the moment on the winners' rostrum



World's best have to bow to McColgan

From DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
TOKYO

LIKE Fatima Whitbread four years ago, Liz McColgan has ensured that Britain does not go home from the world championships without a gold medal.

McColgan was the last realistic chance her nation had of an individual victory in the National Stadium here. Ironically, that. Less than three months ago she was in the firing line for making herself unavailable for Britain for the European Cup. "You should not walk away when your country needs you," Frank Dick, the national director of coaching, said then.

Now, after McColgan had obliterated the finest women's 10,000 metres field ever assembled, Dick was saying of her: "She looked like a tank at a destruction derby. I have never ever seen a destruction job like that in athletics. We have seen people make blistering starts and get away, but Liz, bit by bit, ground everyone into the ground."

It was her first global gold medal. Twice Commonwealth champion, and Olympic runner-up in 1988, she has now added the greatest prize outside the Olympics. Leading from the start, she forced a relentless pace; by the eleventh lap of 25, Ingrid Kristiansen, the Olympic champion and world record holder, from Norway, had been dropped; by the thirteenth the opponent she had probably feared the most, Kathrin Ullrich, of Germany, was out of the way. Ullrich is the fast finisher who kicked away from McColgan's British team colleague, Jill Hunter, to win the European Cup.

Only Derartu Tulu, of Ethiopia, remained as they passed 5,000 metres in 15min 34.1sec, in 78 per cent humidity, too.

Tulu, aged 19, had taken the silver medal, ahead of McColgan's bronze, in the world cross country championship last March. The winner that day, Lynn Jennings, of the United States, was among the 23 athletes unable to live: with McColgan's steady lapping in 75 seconds.

MEDALS				
	G	S	B	Total
United States	6	5	7	18
Soviet Union	4	3	4	11
Germany	2	2	1	5
Kazakhstan	1	1	1	3
Great Britain	1	1	1	3
China	1	1	1	3
France	1	1	0	2
Italy	1	0	0	1
Poland	1	0	0	1
Zimbabwe	1	0	0	1
Japan	0	1	1	2
Canada	0	1	1	2
Hungary	0	1	1	2
Romania	0	1	1	2
Brazil	0	1	1	2
Cuba	0	1	1	2
Namibia	0	1	1	2
Netherlands	0	1	1	2
Norway	0	1	1	2
Morocco	0	0	1	1
Spain	0	0	1	1

No bursts, no chopping of stride to bring Tulu forward to take on the work. Just McColgan doing what she does best: grinding it out from the front.

Behind them, with ten laps to go, were Ullrich and Huanzi Zhong, of China; if we could have read their minds, they would have been saying: "the bronze is the best we can hope for." But, suddenly, Tulu snapped. Zhong and Ullrich had something to chase at. Silver. But never gold.

McColgan, in her cut-away midriff British colours, had five laps to go on her own. To those who have followed her, there could be no doubt that now she would win. Aged 27, she has learned how to judge pace because, without much of a sprint, she knows she always has to get away.

With three laps to go her lead was 26 seconds, but by the finish it had narrowed to 21.

"I knew I had it won from 600 metres out," she said. There was a stumble on to the inside of the track with 380 metres to go, but it was a temporary moment of anxiety for the hundreds of British supporters in the stadium. In the finishing straight, there was no need for a burst. "I just relaxed and enjoyed it," she said, after crossing the line in 31min 14.31sec.

Zhong won the race for silver in 31:35.08, and Xinting Wang, her compatriot, the runner for bronze in 31:35.99. Ullrich faded to fourth, Jennings was fifth and Kristiansen seventh. As fine a bunch of sculps as McColgan could have wished for.

McColgan may have to move abroad

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

LIZ McColgan, Britain's new world 10,000 metres champion, revealed last night she may be forced to take her talent abroad because of lack of sponsorship at home.

After her triumph in Tokyo, the 27-year-old Scot said she would consider moving to America with her husband, Peter, and her baby daughter, Elisha, if the financial prospects did not improve.

"It would only be as a last resort, but it might be a consideration if things don't change after this win," said McColgan, who suffered more financial hardship last year when her pregnancy kept her

off the lucrative grand prix circuit for a year. "If we went to America there would be plenty of money to be made on the road race circuit there, but we don't want to leave Arbroath if we don't have to."

McColgan's new pulling power, following yesterday's victory, could be the turning point. Last week, she signed a contract until next year's Barcelona Olympic Games with the Japanese shoe company, Asics, which is a shrewd move both for the firm and the Scot, with world championship-winning bonuses likely to come her way.

Black is expected to join Forest today

By CHRIS MOORE

KINGSLEY Black, Luton Town's Northern Ireland international, will today complete a £1.5 million move to Nottingham Forest.

The 23-year-old winger travelled to Nottingham last night for talks with Brian Clough, the Forest manager, after the two clubs had agreed the fee.

Forest expect to complete negotiations with Black, who has won 16 caps for Northern Ireland, in time to parade him before their fans at this afternoon's game with Oldham Athletic at the City Ground.

The deal will take Clough's outfit on new players in the last few months to £5 million following the arrival of Teddy Sheringham, from Millwall, for £2 million and Carl Tiler, from Barnsley, for £1.5 million.

"It's no secret we have been chasing Black for a long time," Clough said. "We watched him a lot last season and I am sure he will fit in with our style of play. He will give us a lot of extra options."

Provided there are no late hitches and the deal goes



Black: Clough chase

Agreement is relief to League

THE Football League programme can continue for the next two weeks at least without fear of the Football Association (FA) taking punitive action for it playing unsanctioned football (Peter Ball writes).

That was the outcome of yesterday's round of court action by football's warring bodies, with the first-division clubs, the League and the FA agreeing to keep their powder dry for another day.

The first-division clubs agreed to postpone their actions requiring the League's official receivers, Arthur Sandford and Ian Watt, to apply for FA sanction until after the League's extraordinary meeting on September 10. The FA has, in the meantime, tacitly agreed that it will take no action against the clubs for playing in unsanctioned competitions.

The FA have refused to sanction the League while it retains regulation 11 in its rule-book. The League's EGM will vote on the contentious regulation.

Positive Platt, page 37

Mum's the word as son strikes it rich

SIMON BARNES
ON SATURDAY

This is as true for ten-dollar deals as for multi-million ones, but it is a hard principal to put in practice when you have offers of \$650,000 rising to \$850,000. But Bettie was cool enough to tell the Yankees that this was no money at all. "To me, Brian is special," she said. The Yankees were shamed into agreeing.

Brien was wheeled out before the assembled might of the nation's press this week. Just about all that sport's latest millionaire managed to say was: "I'm as happy as I can be." Bettie spoke up for him: "He handles himself so well in joy and pressure. That's why they call him Smooth." You don't have to look far to see where he got that ability from.

Brien is 19, and has never played major-league baseball in his life. But he is seething with potential, and has a smoking fast-ball that has been timed at 99 mph.

That ability, along with the poker skills of his mother, has brought him the biggest signing fee paid for an untiered player. "When you have something to sell, they'll try and get in as low as they can," Bettie said.

This is a week of great sadness. Faithful readers will recall an item in this column some time ago about non-throwing quarterbacks: understudies' understudies, people who never throw a pass in anger but who command impressive salaries for doing so. The most resonant name of them all has reached the end of his career, released by the LA Rams after all that dedicated non-throwing. His name alone should have been enough

to keep him on the team, but it was not. Farewell, Chuck Long.

Arresting sight

This is not a good year to be anywhere near Mike Tyson. Tyson, of course, is under investigation for an allegation of raping a contestant in the Miss Black America pageant. Now his minder is in trouble, charged with robbery. His name is Anthony Pitts, known to cognoscenti as Smilin' Tony. This, by the way, is irony. He allegedly seized a photographer's camera and ripped the film from it. His offer to pay was refused. Police were called, and Smilin' Tony was led away, unsmiling, in handcuffs. He was later released on bail.

Who's kidding?

At the US Open tennis tournament, going on here on the sweltering cement of Flushing Meadow, we have revelled in the fighting prowess of Jimmy Connors, and in the lumps under pressure of the all-Las Vegas boy, Andre Agassi. A

shame they were not drawn against each other... after Agassi beat Connors here in 1988. Jimbo said: "I enjoy playing guys who could be my children. Maybe he's one of them. I spent a lot of time in Vegas."

How life changes. Three years ago, Ben Johnson's hotel bill for his entourage in Seoul for the Olympic Games was \$25,000. In Tokyo he is staying in the athletes' village. He is in a suite built for two, sharing it with two other athletes.

Out of tune

Bob Marley was the Jamaican reggae star. Now I hear that one of his many sons, Rohan, is playing American football, as a defensive back for the University of Miami. The great Bob was a sporty type himself, and Rohan has inherited that, but not the musical talent. "I don't sing," he said. "Only in the shower."
